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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Beating up around the Bush

Six gay/AIDS activists arrested in anti-gay violence at Republican National Convention in New Orleans

By David Birman

NEW ORLEANS — Lesbian and gay protesters at the Republican National Convention here disrupted three major political events during the first two days of the convention. Republicans responded with "rabid" anti-gay violence, according to Neil Broome, a New York activist with ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

Five AIDS and gay activists were arrested during a protest on Sunday, Aug. 14 at President Reagan's farewell rally, and one was detained Tuesday, Aug. 16 during a "zap" of Vice President George Bush's waterfront speech. On Monday, protesters disrupted a function held by right-wing Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, but there were no arrests.

Eyewitnesses at the Reagan "zap" on Sunday said that mobbing Republicans screamed "Kill the fags," and pointed to the "Silence = Death" buttons, saying, "There's the fag badge." At least one of the Republican assailants wore a Bush campaign staff badge. Neil Broome added, "I was so frightened. We're in their territory — and they feel they can kick the shit out of us." Donna Minkowitz, another activist who witnessed the event said, "We saw the enemy today and it's running this country. Now I understand this on a visceral level."

According to a statement released by Urvasi Vaid, Public Information Director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and one of the organizers of gay protests at the convention, "The reaction of the several hundred attendees [at the Reagan ceremony] is appalling in its bigotry and 'mob-like' violence."

The melee drew national press coverage, including CBS national television and the

New York Times. All five protesters arrested, Steve Quester, Mark Kostopoulos, Jack Ben-Levi, Rand Snyder and Brian Jackson, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and each paid a \$100 fine.

On Tuesday, 20-30 Bush protesters were positioned less than 100 feet from the Vice President, in a dense crowd of Republicans and police officers. Just as Bush began to announce his choice of right-wing Indiana Senator Dan Quayle as the nominee for vice president, the protesters chanted, "40,000 dead of AIDS — Where was George?" A homophobic melee ensued, and the protest group was nearly trampled by right-wingers shouting anti-gay epithets. "I thought they might attack us," said Bru Dye, a New York gay activist, "but the police kept them away, for the most part."

Bobby O'Malley, a member of ACT UP/New York, was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace at the Bush action. At an Aug. 17 hearing, O'Malley was assessed \$75 in court fees and charges against him were dropped. O'Malley denied that he did anything violent, and said he was assaulted by one of the Republican counter-demonstrators.

On Saturday, three non-gay anarchist activists were also arrested and brutally beaten by nine New Orleans police officers. Mark Gonzalez, attorney for the activists and for the Anarchist Relief Front, said that the three were held for two nights before their bail was reduced from over \$1,000. Gonzalez said that the anarchists' arrests and the detention of the gay/AIDS activists were part of a trend: "The problem with New Orleans police is an entrenched brutality."

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Les/gay demands dropped in SF health workers' strike settlement

Hospitals refuse to include AIDS, ARC in nondiscrimination clause of contract

By Chris Bull

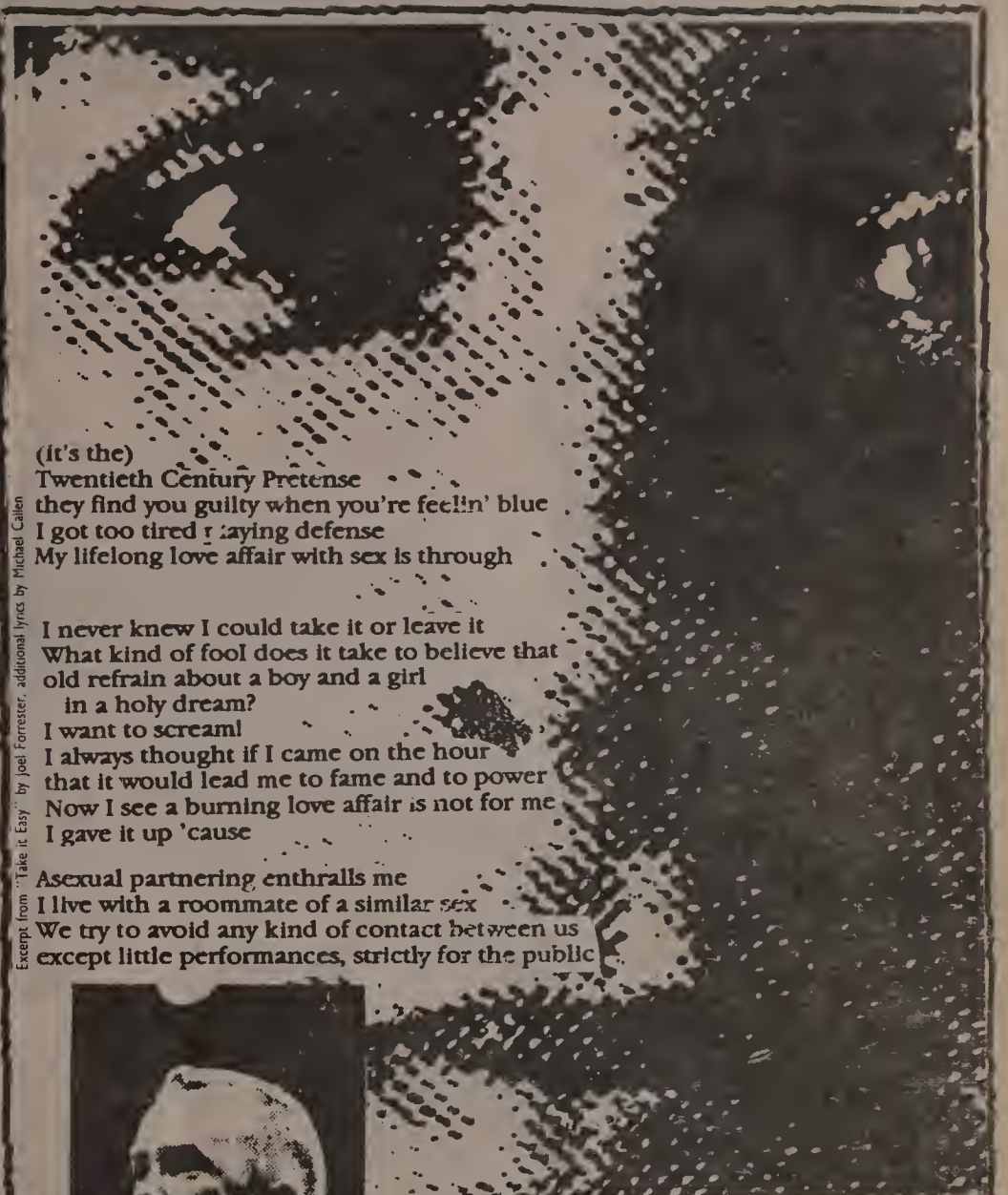
SAN FRANCISCO — After three weeks of intensive organizing, spirited picket lines and bitter negotiations, the heavily lesbian and gay Hospital and Health Care Workers Union (Local 250) Aug. 12 reached a contractual agreement with seven local private hospitals. Local 250 representatives told *GCN* the union received comprehensive health care insurance in the settlement, but was forced to drop demands important to lesbian and gay health care workers by "union-busting" negotiators representing the hospitals. The healthworkers are expected to go back to work Mon. Aug. 22,

after staying out in solidarity with the California Nurses Association, which settled its strike Aug. 18.

The hospitals, known as Affiliated Hospitals, refused to extend the non-discrimination clause in its contract with the workers to include the "physically disabled" or to permit bereavement leave for "domestic partners." (In 1985 the non-discrimination clause was amended to include "sexual orientation.")

Local 250 representatives said Affiliated's refusal to consider AIDS and ARC physical

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(It's the)
Twentieth Century Pretense
they find you guilty when you're feelin' blue
I got too tired r' laying defense
My lifelong love affair with sex is through

I never knew I could take it or leave it
What kind of fool does it take to believe that
old refrain about a boy and a girl
in a holy dream?
I want to scream!
I always thought if I came on the hour
that it would lead me to fame and to power
Now I see a burning love affair is not for me
I gave it up 'cause

Asexual partnering enthralls me
I live with a roommate of a similar sex
We try to avoid any kind of contact between us
except little performances, strictly for the public

CALLEN
CRUISE CONTROL
COMMUNARDS

gay men's music to be out about

plus coverage of international
les/gay health conference

Excerpt from "Take It Easy" by Joel Forester, additional lyrics by Michael Callen

Fredric Gorman

Dukakis ordered to release foster care policy documents

State supreme court decision denying "executive privilege" may have far-reaching implications

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruled on August 15 that Gov. Michael Dukakis and other administration officials cannot legally withhold documents from the public. The decision reversed a previous Dukakis order denying access to internal memoranda from which the governor developed his anti-gay foster care regulations in 1985.

The ruling, which may have a broad impact on other legal cases involving public access to information, also stated the SJC would not create a so-called "executive privilege" allowing an exception for Dukakis and his administration. Consequently, about 40 documents — including early drafts of the foster care policy, communications between Human Services Secretary Philip Johnston and Dukakis, and notes handwritten by Dukakis — are now available for public perusal.

According to Gary Buseck, chair of the litigation committee of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), the SJC decision could help advance the lawsuit filed by gay foster parents Donald Babets and David Jean (and other plaintiffs) against the state Departments of Human Services and Social Services (DHS and DSS). Dukakis was also originally named as a defendant in the case, but he was dropped when a judge ruled he could not be sued for actions he takes as governor. Buseck said the internal memos may contain evidence to support the plaintiffs' claim that the foster care policy is illegal and unconstitutional because it discriminates against gay men, lesbians and single people by setting up rigid guidelines which virtually exclude them from foster parenting.

"The [Babets/Jean] case was put into

limbo until the SJC decision," Buseck explained. "Now what happens will depend on what's in those documents. We'll likely get some insight — when people fight very hard to conceal something, it's usually because there's some proof of intent to discriminate on the part of the state."

Babets, et. al. v. the Commonwealth

GLAD joined forces with the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (CLUM) in 1986 to co-sponsor the Babets/Jean lawsuit. The much-publicized battle over the constitutionality of the foster care regulations was launched when Dukakis established the policy after the DSS removed two foster children from the home of Babets and Jean. The openly gay couple had been previously approved by DSS as foster parents, but were deprived of their children following articles in the *Boston Globe* which questioned the placement.

Buseck said that although the resolution of the case may still be far away, the SJC decision was "clearly a victory." Anthony Doniger, a CLUM cooperating attorney who is chief counsel for Babets and Jean, agreed.

"This is a very wide-ranging and important decision," Doniger told the *Globe*. "[This decision] is important to democracy, to openness and accountability in government. The other interesting thing about this opinion is that the court is saying there is no special protection for the governor."

Dukakis, who has been hounded during his quest for the U.S. presidency by angry lesbians and gay men decrying his position on foster care, was campaigning in western Massachusetts when news of the SJC decision came out.

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Quote of the week



David Flaherty

"I didn't realize that [Black North Carolinians are disproportionately affected by AIDS]. I don't think I've ever seen statistics to support that."

— David Flaherty, head of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, which oversees that state's efforts to combat AIDS, as quoted in the Greensboro News and Record. About 22 percent of North Carolina's population is Black, while nearly 44.6 percent of the people with AIDS in the state are Black.

Flaherty's department has been harshly criticized by AIDS activists for failing to distribute hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grants to fight the disease.

Pro-choice nuns not ousted

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Two nuns will not be dismissed for signing a 1984 ad supporting Catholic politicians' right to speak out on abortion. This "is a marvelous victory," said Sisters Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Hussey of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. "The past four years of struggle have been extremely painful but this decision makes it all worthwhile," they added. "We hope our struggle will make it easier for other Catholics to remain firm when they face ecclesiastical [church] injustice."

The two women, who run a shelter for women in Charleston, signed the 1984 ad with 85 other Catholics giving their support to then vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro and New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, according to the *Washington Post*. The politicians had been criticized by some Catholic clergy for supporting the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which made legalized abortion available for some women.

□ Dan Verfaillie

Film and video work from women sought

BOSTON — Femme Core Space is seeking submissions by lesbian and bisexual women artists for an independent film and video festival to be held on November 20. Work with overt lesbian or bisexual content is encouraged, but not required. Films and videotapes should be no more than 20 minutes in length and must be submitted by October 1.

For further information on format and where to send entries, call MaryAnn at (617) 350-7598. Women of color are especially encouraged to contact Femme Core Space.

□ Elizabeth Pincus

Oh Jesus!

NEW YORK — Among the estimated 10,000 people swarming the streets outside the glitzy Ziegfeld Theater on August 12, there were "sightings of protesting gays," according to the *Boston Globe*. This time, however, the "protesting gays" were protesting the protesters. A smattering of gay

men, lesbians and AIDS activists were on hand in mid-town Manhattan to decry the outcry over Martin Scorsese's new Jesus movie, *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

"We are doing a counter demonstration," Michael Petrelis told the *Globe*. Petrelis, a member of ACT UP/New York, explained, "We are demonstrating to say 'Let's fight AIDS instead of this movie.'"

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of objectors, primarily fundamentalist Christians, turned out in eight other cities to protest the release of the film, in which Jesus fantasizes about having sex with Mary Magdalene. Shouting "Blasphemy!" an estimated 25,000 demonstrators clogged the streets around Universal Studios in Los Angeles, whereas other protests were sprinkled with counterdemonstrators sporting placards such as "I Support Freedom of Artistic Expression" and "Relax, It's Only a Movie."

The brouhaha brews on over *The Last Temptation of Christ*, which stars Willem Dafoe as J.C., Barbara Hershey as Mary Magdalene, Harvey Keitel as Judas and (gasp!) David Bowie as Pontius Pilate. Watch *GCN* for details about any "gay sightings" that accompany the film's rumored Boston premiere.

□ Elizabeth Pincus

Fla. judge tells school to build isolation booth for child with AIDS

TAMPA, Fla. — A Federal district judge has ordered school officials to build an "isolation booth" inside a classroom so that a 6-year-old girl who has AIDS can be taught with other children. The girl is developmentally delayed and is in a school for the "trainable mentally handicapped," according to her mother.

The judge, Elizabeth Kovachevich, said in her ruling that by being in a classroom with other children, albeit separated, the little girl, Eliana, would become toilet trained and learn not to bite her thumb habitually. Once she learns these, Judge Kovachevich said, the "remote theoretical possibility" that AIDS could be spread to her classmates will have disappeared. No cases of AIDS have been spread through exposure to urine, feces or saliva, the judge said in her ruling.

The suit was brought by Eliana's mother who said the girl needed the socialization and interaction with the other children, according to the *New York Times*. The school district wanted Eliana taught at home for fear of transmission. Steve Hanlon, attorney for Eliana's mother, called the judge's ruling "creative" and said he hoped within six weeks Eliana would have progressed to the point where she can leave the booth. One school board committee member said, however, that the idea was "sadistic." "All I can see is that little face in a bubble, very close to other children, but not able to take part in what the other children are doing."

Last year Judge Kovachevich presided over the case brought by Clifford and Louise Ray, the parents of the three brothers who tested positive for HIV antibodies. The judge ruled in favor of the Ray family, ordering the boys admitted to school, but after the Ray home was burned, the family moved to another district.

□ Paul-David Wadler

Meeting planned for Jewish people with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection

BOSTON — Several months ago the American Jewish Congress convened a Task Force on AIDS to lobby and educate the community about the AIDS epidemic. The task force is planning an informal luncheon meeting for Jewish people with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection in order to discuss how the greater Boston Jewish community agencies can provide better services. The meeting is planned for Wednesday, September 7 at noon at the offices of the American Jewish Congress, One Lincoln Plaza, Suite 310. Lunch will be provided. For information

and reservations please call Janet Schenker at (617) 330-9630.

□ Frederick Mandel

Streets safer for some teens than home

ATLANTA — A group of University of Connecticut psychologists has concluded that homelessness is actually safer for many young people than living at home. Mark-David Janus, one of the authors of the study, concluded: "Part of the so-called allure of the streets ... may be the street's relative safety compared to home. At least if runaways are physically abused on the street, they can escape from their assailant."

According to the psychologists, 86 percent of the 195 runaways interviewed for the study were sexually and/or physically abused while at home. Of the young women surveyed, 94 percent reported abuse at home while 64 percent were abused on the streets. According to the *Boston Globe*, Janus, in his report to the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, called for increased residential and health services for runaway teens, many of whom are at high risk of contracting AIDS through forced sex or prostitution.

□ Liz Galst

Women at Naval Academy investigated

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Two women attending the U.S. Naval Academy are under investigation for having a lesbian relationship. According to the *Advocate*, no one accused of homosexuality at the Academy has ever been cleared of the charges. Last year, a male midshipman was expelled after he admitted he was gay. "Homosexual activity" is considered by the navy to be a violation of "professional aptitude" and can result in expulsion from the Academy. The two women are currently on leave.

□ Don Verfaillie

PWAs demand aerosolized pentamidine in P-town

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. — Nearly 50 members and supporters of the local People with AIDS Coalition demonstrated outside the offices of Outer Cape Health Services on August 15, demanding access to aerosolized pentamidine (AP). The treatment — widely believed to effectively prevent pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), the leading cause of death among people with AIDS (PWA) — remains unavailable in Provincetown. According to the *Boston Globe*, the protesters charged Outer Cape Health Services, along with other community-based clinics, with not moving quickly enough to provide AP.

Marion Roth, vice president of the PWA Coalition, told the *Globe*, "We have two new cases of pneumocystis pneumonia in town. People with AIDS don't have time to wait."

PWAs in Provincetown have obtained AP from clinics in Boston and New York, but told reporters they are "living in fear of recurrence" of PCP because the treatment is unavailable locally.

□ Elizabeth Pincus

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Ex-boyfriend charged in brutal attack on Mass. lesbians

One woman hospitalized for a week

By Elizabeth Pincus

BROCKTON, Mass. — Two lesbians were severely beaten on August 8 by the ex-boyfriend of one of the women, after an angry confrontation erupted in this small town southeast of Boston. According to Linda Akerblom, she and her lover Kim Maxwell were repeatedly punched in the head by Anthony Litto, Maxwell's ex-boyfriend, until they were knocked unconscious. As a result of the assault, Akerblom was hospitalized for nearly a week, where she was treated for five skull fractures which necessitated extensive reconstructive surgery on her face.

"[Litto] went off like a bomb," Akerblom told GCN. "I thought he was going to kill us, he was so crazy. I've never gone through something like this before — one more blow to my head and I wouldn't be here anymore."

Akerblom explained that she and Maxwell, who became lovers last December, have been continually harassed by Litto since he learned of their involvement during the winter. Litto and Maxwell had been together for eight years before splitting up last November; they have a seven-year-old child who has remained in the custody of Maxwell. According to Akerblom, Maxwell was repeatedly abused throughout her relationship with Litto. For example, Akerblom said that Litto beat Maxwell, attempted to drown her and the child, and viciously chopped off her hair in December after Maxwell moved out.

"Kim's been through eight years of abuse from [Litto]," Akerblom stated. "I'm scared. I've never had to live like this. Since Kim and I have been together he's been a jerk to us — he tried to rape Kim, he's sprayed anti-lesbian graffiti on our house, he yells at [Kim] constantly. I have no doubt

he just doesn't like it that we're gay."

Maxwell had never before pressed criminal charges against Litto, despite hospital records documenting her frequent injuries. Akerblom said Maxwell kept trying to establish amicable relations with Litto for the sake of their child. Now, however, she and Akerblom are pursuing charges against Litto because of the severe assault of August 8. Akerblom recounted the events leading up to the attack as follows:

On August 7, Litto was bothering Akerblom and Maxwell at their apartment. He smashed a plant on their doorstep and after exchanging heated words with the women, he demolished the windshield of Akerblom's car. The following evening, Akerblom and Maxwell went to Litto's apartment to confront him and deliver a note advising Litto to "stay out of our lives or the cops will pick you up for harassment." During the course of the ensuing angry confrontation, Akerblom smashed Litto's windshield. Litto proceeded to pull Maxwell into the apartment and knock her unconscious with a punch to the face. As Akerblom rushed to assist her, Litto began beating Akerblom about the head.

Akerblom awoke in a state of disorientation. Not knowing Litto's whereabouts, she roused Maxwell and the women ran to their car. After driving home, they phoned an ambulance and the Brockton police. Akerblom was immediately hospitalized, and Maxwell was treated for a sprained arm and released.

According to Akerblom, despite the statements given to the police that night detailing the seriousness of the assault, Litto was not arrested until several days later. She said Maxwell had to file a complaint at the

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Mass. gay man files employment discrimination suit

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — A gay man who claims he was unjustly fired from his new position in state government has filed a discrimination complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). Ronald Walton, who was promoted last fall to accounting supervisor at the Quincy-based Massachusetts Department of Education, said he was booted without notice on Feb. 6 this year after being continually harassed by a co-worker. Although his supervisors cited "poor performance" as the reason for his termination, Walton claims he was subject to repeated gay-baiting and said he believes a climate of AIDS-phobia led to his dismissal.

"A woman I worked with was sabotaging me at every turn," Walton said. "She told me she was afraid to work with me because of fear of AIDS. Then she did whatever she could do to assassinate my character."

According to Walton, the harassment he received at the Department of Education came on the heels of run-ins with his previous employers at the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Walton, who said he does not have AIDS or positive HIV-antibody status, claims he was denied advancement at his public works job, despite repeatedly scoring the highest marks in the agency on a senior accounting exam. He said he was underpaid and underutilized for five years before finally receiving a transfer to the Department of Education in September 1987. But Walton said he believes he was drummed out of working for the state government only five months later under the pretext of poor job performance, even after work-related stress lead him to seek psychiatric counseling.

Several education department co-workers expressed surprise at his termination,

Walton explained, though he said he received little outspoken support in the office. According to Walton, the co-worker who repeatedly harassed him set a hostile, anti-gay tone in the workplace that influenced others to turn against him.

Walton said, "I'm sitting here at home, unemployed, wondering what's going to happen to me. I'm very angry at what's happened, and I want to help other people who are discriminated against in their jobs."

After he was fired, Walton sought assistance from his union, the National Alliance of Government Employees (NAGE). NAGE legal counsel suggested Walton file the discrimination complaint with MCAD, which will now seek evidence to confirm or deny Walton's charge. The attorney representing Walton corroborated his account of discrimination, but said she would not discuss the case while it is still pending. Legal counsel for the Department of Education also declined to comment on the case. The NAGE attorney told GCN a decision on the matter is expected from MCAD in December.

Walton said he seeks to be reinstated as an accounting supervisor with the Department of Education, receiving full back pay and compensation for benefits. He is also asking to have any negative reports about him taken off his employee record.

"I was really surprised by the termination," said Walton, who explained he has always been open about being gay while working for the state. "Basically, a very vicious person harassed me and degraded me in front of others. A lot of information about me has been misinterpreted and used against me by [my employers]. No one should have to go through this." □



QUEER ROULETTE:

FIVE COCKSUCKERS & A CUISINART

Les/gay health conference report

Blow up over oral sex among many controversies

By Michael C. Botkin

BOSTON — An estimated 1,500 people attended the Second International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum, held in Boston from July 20-26. Major events like this one in the national lesbian/gay community have an element of chance to them; you never know in advance how big or successful they will be. This conference, however, was a smash — not just because of its large size, which was quite im-

NEWS ANALYSIS

pressive, but because it succeeded in drawing together a significant cross-section of the national lesbian/gay academic and service community.

A broad spectrum of opinions, backgrounds and experiences was evident at the conference, and this diversity often led to heated controversy and debate in the free-wheeling question-and-answer periods at the end of workshops. As the conference progressed through its full week of more than 500 workshops and caucuses, some issues emerged again and again as pivotal points of debate among conference participants.

Demographics

The conference was targeted at academics, health professionals and service providers, and its turn-out reflected this emphasis. Given travel expenses and the high cost of registration (\$130 and up), attendance was not possible for many lesbians and gay men. Men outnumbered women by at least two to one, and there were few people of color present. Outreach to countries other than the United States resulted in the participation of at least 70 international delegates. However, most of them were from English-speaking nations (such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) with a sprinkling from Germany and the Netherlands; no participants from Latin America, Asia or Africa were present.

Within the confines of the conference, a striking range of political opinion was present. The center of the political spectrum was occupied by community service organization staff (most notably AIDS-related groups) and academics. This broad group made up the bulk of conference participants. A more leftist outlook was brought by international delegates (many of whom expressed amazement at the lack of a class perspective in the U.S.), a smattering

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AIDS dementia: prevalent and misdiagnosed

Report from a workshop aimed at caregivers

By Marea Murray

BOSTON — AIDS-related dementia, or encephalopathy, is a common condition among people with AIDS (PWAs) that is often misdiagnosed and/or mistreated. Two researchers at the Sherman Oaks Community Hospital in Los Angeles, Stephan L. Buckingham, director of AIDS services, and Wilfred Van Gorp, presented a workshop on AIDS dementia at the Second International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum held in Boston in late July.

The workshop, entitled "AIDS Dementia: Essential Knowledge for Mental Health Professionals," was one of several presentations on the latest research into the neurological implications of HIV infection and treatment at the Boston conference. (HIV is a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS.) Aimed at mental health professionals, PWAs, and other interested participants, the workshop included information about the prevalence of

encephalopathy, its symptoms, and treatment recommendations.

Buckingham and Van Gorp reported that 25 percent of the people they surveyed who eventually developed AIDS showed symptoms of encephalopathy before any other AIDS condition. Citing the work of other researchers, they noted that over half of PWAs are thought to be affected by dementia and 66 percent experience progressive cognitive loss over time.

The researchers explained that early signs of encephalopathy include apathy, social withdrawal, memory changes, generalized physical slowing and depression, but not the memory and linguistic loss common with Alzheimer's disease. They said these manifestations of AIDS dementia cannot be detected by "the usual tests," such as CAT scans, conducted when clinicians suspect central nervous system damage. Thus Buckingham, Van Gorp and other research-

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GCN Job Openings

Staff Writer/Circulation
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Available in October: Research, investigate and write news stories primarily about Boston/New England, and as necessary, stories with a national scope. May include some analytical/feature writing as well. Share responsibilities with other staff writer for coordinating weekly mailing of paper and processing subscriptions. Qualifications: Strong writing skills and ability to write several stories under weekly deadline pressure. Knowledge of local/national lesbian and gay community and issues helpful. Strong organizational and record-keeping skills and knowledge of data entry and/or computers also helpful. Deadline for application is September 2.

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To apply for this position, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to **GCN** Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Support Dan Holmes

Dear *GCN*:

You may have already heard about the "incident" that occurred on May 26, 1988 at the Downtown Cafe, 12 LaGrange Street, Boston. We understand that Dan Holmes, the owner of The Downtown Cafe, heard someone moving around behind the restaurant and went to investigate. A man was climbing the fire escape and did not respond when Dan called out. Dan threw an object against the fire escape. The man, who had failed to identify himself as a plainclothes police officer, walked off the fire escape and hit Dan in front of witnesses. The officer then arrested Dan and charged him with resisting arrest and two counts of assault and battery.

At trial, the judge offered a "no finding" (including a nominal fine) for the assault charge. For personal and business reasons, it is imperative that Dan's name be cleared. "No finding" is not the same as "not guilty." Since Dan's restaurant licensing may be affected, Dan intends to do everything possible to assure that his record reflects the fact that he is innocent of this charge. For these reasons, Dan will have a jury trial in September. Dan has incurred and will continue to incur substantial expense in defending himself against these groundless charges.

This entire incident is an affront to the integrity of our legal system. As you know, Dan Holmes is a person of the highest moral caliber, who has contributed in many tangible and intangible ways to the quality of life in this city. It is unfortunate that one impulsive police officer can impose such tremendous financial and emotional costs on someone like Dan. It is also a travesty in these economically trying times to see our tax dollars wasted this way while real criminals remain uncaught and unprosecuted.

Friends and business associates of Dan have established The Dan Holmes Legal Defense Fund. We feel strongly that a violation of one person's civil rights is a threat to all of us and the ideals we value. Although we cannot alleviate the emotional stress associated with this incident, we can help defray the potentially overwhelming finan-

cial burden which the Boston Police Department has so cavalierly thrust upon Dan.

There will be a benefit at Dan's home on August 21 (Sunday) at 6:30 pm at 73 Hemenway Street (located at Fenway near the Westland Street). If you cannot attend the benefit, but would like to contribute to Dan's defense, please mail a check, payable to The Dan Holmes Legal Defense Fund, to Deborah Benkov, c/o The Downtown Cafe, 12 LaGrange Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. Contributions of any amount are welcome.

We hope that you will add your voice to ours in helping to end this harrassment of a respected member of our community.

The Dan Holmes Legal Defense Fund
Boston, Mass.

Who tried to kill Diana?

Dear *GCN*:

On July 8th, someone broke into my friend's house and stuck a knife into her brain. Just who would do such a horrible thing? It must be someone who hates queers because she had been receiving disgusting phone calls naming her "queer," and the police could do nothing about it. My friend is still in a coma, wearing a respirator, tubes and a skull bandage. A cat-scan shows some brain damage that might be reversible. She has already had an embolism removed from her brain. And this is all because some stupid person hates queers. They are full of hate and she is full of love. Who tried to kill my gentle Diana?

It happened in one of the most beautiful places on Earth: a little town called Pahoa on the island called Hawaii — secluded and safe, peaceful and loving. Or it used to be. It was about 1:00 am, and Diana was probably sleeping. What I want now is for her to wake up and tell us who this queer-hater is.

It took me a whole week to get permission to visit her. The hospital nearest Pahoa couldn't handle such a serious injury, so they flew her 200 miles over the ocean to Honolulu, where I live. And I found out about her attack late that same day. "She's in I.C.U. [the intensive care unit] and only immediate family can visit," said the hospital all week long, and they wouldn't give out any information about her condition. The news reports kept saying she had been critically injured on the head and hands with a knife. And my mind pictured her eyes gone, face half cut off, breasts cut up, and hands missing fingers, plus maybe rape. It took me three days to find out her true condition from other gay activists and friends. Then today my lover and I finally went to see Diana, and we talked to her with words of love and hope because they said she could hear us. After only a few minutes we had to leave because I was beginning to cry, but I held it back until we were in the hallway. I hand't been able to cry all week, just to worry, pray and phone people.

Diana "S" Holmes has been a powerful Lesbian feminist activist for at least five years, and is currently running for the Hawaii County Council. She is 38, Caucasian, vegetarian, working class and Christian. She is also transsexual and has given lectures and workshops on that part of her life. She is one of the most enthusiastic and fun-loving activists I've ever met, always kind and friendly to all. She spouts Lesbian feminist rhetoric while at the same time making listeners laugh and feel great. Her style is always truthful, open, personal and joyful. She is proud of her body and takes care of it, so glad to be rid of the maleness she was born with, and void of the anger so many of us feel. She is extremely well-read, knowledgeable and able to share it all both vocally and in writing.

Oh, Goddess, take care of my wonderful friend Diana. Let this story have a happy ending. Let us take her to the zoo again and frolic with the animals and eat popcorn. She loves serving you and she does it so well. Surely her work here is not done. There is so much more to do and we need her help. We need her bubbly spirit right here in what used to be Paradise.

Jay Mays
Honolulu, Hawaii

[Ed: Diana is still in the hospital and her prognosis is "not good." She is in a "semi-coma" and has pneumonia.]

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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What is Denver doing?

Dear GCN:

Recently I've written to *Out Front*, the gay newspaper based in Denver and asked if they would 'donate' a subscription to us inmates isolated due to having been found positive with the HIV/ARC/AIDS virus. I received a reply enclosed with a copy of 'Out Front' stating that they are only able to send a 'one time' copy of the newsletter.

I understand monies for postage must be donated etc. Nonetheless, I felt as though we (the AIDS inmates) had been slapped in the face and told not to correspond further.

How sad that you folks bust your butt to see that prisoners have a little space to let off steam and are sent copies of your newsletter (from Boston!) and yet, *Out Front* in Denver has turned its back on us and more or less said 'No, we don't want to get involved.'

I've lived in Denver for close to 10 years and was active in the gay rights movement. I realize the 'Gay Community' of Denver owes me nothing, but what happened to helping out those who could use a helping hand to try to make someone's life a little more interesting by simply mailing one copy of the newsletter each month? (We'd share it.)

I just want to say thanks from the bottom of my heart.

David Evans
49515
Box 1010
Canon City, CO 81212

Denver comes through after all

Dear GCN:[received a week later]

You folks will be glad to hear that I just heard from *Out Front* Editor-in-Chief Phil Price and they have decided to provide 'Wanting to meet' ads to prisoner free of charge! Also they will send us a copy of the paper!

Smile,
David Evans
Canon City, CO 81212

HIV prisoner: "Writing a journal has helped"

Dear GCN:

I am a prisoner who has tested positive for the AIDS virus. I admit that I did a crime (car theft) that was punishable, but when the blood test came back positive I guess it took me a week before it finally dawned on me (my emotions), when a guard made a remark as the nurse was coming in to see me. He saw the precaution on the door about 'blood and body fluids' and made the comment, "Well, you'd better get your gloves on," and started laughing. That comment struck me and left me crying for 2 days.

Now I am single-celled in the Maximum Security section and allowed to leave my cell at most 6 hours a day. It was not the move that was so bad but by the time they told everyone who had any dealings with me, the information got to the other prisoners who now constantly harass and threaten me. With this on top of the emotions I was already under, I was nearly to the breaking point. I quit going to recreation. I'm the only person here known to be positive and being alone with it is tough.

A couple of weeks ago though I started writing a lot about my past experiences and my thoughts and it brought me a little peace of mind. The more I write the better I feel about myself, as I realize what got me into trouble and what's still good about me. I'm only 113 pages into it, but it has helped!

I'm hoping to get up the courage to go out to the yard [recreation] for a while each day but it's hard right now. That's where I receive the threats. Now I'm known as the 'guy with AIDS'.

I go up for parole in August and I hope I make it, but whatever happens, if there is someone out there that shares a lot of my same experiences, I'll be glad to write while I'm here or when I'm back home. I would like to know that I helped at least one person, and to get some of the help that I need too.

Thanks for taking the time to listen. It is sometimes the best medicine, knowing someone cares.

Michael F. McNeely
25965
700 Conley Lake Rd
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Prostitute women oppose mandatory testing

By The U.S. PROStitutes Collective

The U.S. PROStitutes Collective (US PROS) is opposed to California's proposed Bronzan bill (AB 2319), which is typical of the rush of bills being put forward across the country. AB 2319 would make HIV anti-body testing mandatory for people convicted of prostitution and introduces a possible felony prison sentence of up to three years for a second and subsequent conviction if the test is positive. In addition, the bill would require the court to send women convicted of prostitution to the California workfare program, GAIN.

The Bronzan bill would penalize both women and men involved in the sex industry as prostitutes or as clients, but it would impact most heavily on women, and Black

... [W]orking women have traditionally practiced "safe sex," insisting that clients wear condoms and get regular health checks.

women in particular. At least 70 percent of people arrested for prostitution are women. And although most prostitute women in the U.S. are white, racist policing and sentencing ensure that most women convicted of prostitution and sent to prison are Black. Black women would be the first and the most likely to be convicted of a felony offense under Bronzan's bill and the bill's enforcement would result in further police harassment of Black communities.

AB 2319 is a waste of public funds. Far from preventing the spread of HIV, the bill will divert resources and attention from the problems that make people vulnerable to AIDS, such as overwork, poverty, stress, malnutrition, military-industrial pollution, medical side effects and lack of free preventive health care. According to a study of 16 major U.S. cities, prostitution laws already cost \$120 million a year to enforce, "exacting a disproportionately high toll on law enforcement resources away from violent crime." (Julie Pearl, "The Highest Paying Customers: America's Cities and the Cost of Prostitution Control," *Hastings Law Journal*, April, 1987). A fiscal report prepared by US PROS with the help of professionals and submitted to the California State Appropriations Committee shows that AB 2319 would cost at least \$5.5 million annually to enforce, including increased police and court time and extra jail and prison costs.

Bills such as AB 2319 are being put forward in a number of states. They are an example of how AIDS is being used as an excuse to introduce repressive legislation and other discrimination against anyone labelled as 'high risk' by politicians and/or the media. Black and Third World people, gay men and prostitute women and men have all been held responsible for the spread of AIDS. Even lesbian women, who are supposed to be 'low risk,' are increasingly facing discrimination because AIDS has been so closely identified with gay sex and what's being called "immoral practices." Those prostitute women and men who are also Black, Third World, lesbian and/or gay are particularly vulnerable to scapegoating.

The recently published report of the Presidential AIDS Commission, which is being applauded across the country, states that "penalties for prostitution are too lenient and enforcement of prostitution laws is erratic." The Commission recommends that "prostitution laws should be strictly enforced" and that criminal penalties should be enforced against those who "knowingly engage in behavior which is likely to transmit HIV." These policies mislead the public by making false connections between prostitute women and AIDS, implying that prostitute women are responsible for its spread. In fact, working women have traditionally practiced "safe sex," insisting that clients wear condoms and get regular health checks. AIDS studies in the US and other Western countries have confirmed this and have shown that prostitute women are not any more at risk of catching and spreading AIDS than other women, unless they are intravenous drug users, which in our ex-

perience most prostitute women are not.

The Bronzan bill is reminiscent of the anti-venereal disease (VD) laws, such as the Chamberlain-Kahn Act of 1918, which was enforced in most states, supposedly to stop the spread of VD in the armed forces. These laws used the prevention of VD as an excuse to increase police control over working class communities where prostitute women lived. The police could arrest and imprison in special hospitals any woman they considered to be a prostitute. These policies failed to prevent VD. But they caused many thousands of women to be quarantined and kept in jails, and they opened the way for current laws against prostitution.

Like the old VD laws, the Bronzan bill does not address the economic factors that force women into prostitution. Prostitute women come from among the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the community trying to provide for ourselves and our families. We are mothers, mostly single mothers, on starvation level welfare payments or on no income at all; women who are working as prostitutes to refuse the poverty we are subjected to because of no or low wages; and young girls (and boys) escaping violence within the family.

The state of California is proposing to spend millions of dollars to arrest, test, quarantine and imprison women, and force us to become scab labor by compulsory participation in mandatory workfare programs at or below the minimum wage. Instead they should provide money and resources for

The issue of mandatory testing for people involved in prostitution has serious implications for everyone's right to free confidential health care; to a private life of their choosing; and for human, legal and civil rights generally.

women and children so that no one is forced into prostitution by poverty. In their new publication *Prostitute Women and AIDS: Resisting the Virus of Repression*, our sister organization, the English Collective of Prostitutes points out that "If the government were seriously concerned about prostitute women's vulnerability to AIDS, it would provide financial resources so that women could get off the game (the life) and wouldn't need to resort to it in the first place, risking their lives. [A British doctor has suggested that] 'Prostitutes who have been infected with the AIDS virus should be given a pension by the government so they no longer need to work.' (*Independent*, January 11, 1988). This proposal is modelled on a 250-pound monthly pension from the 'welfare fund' and 'free treatment for drug addiction' given to prostitute women in Vienna. Although it is an important victory for prostitute women and for all people with HIV or AIDS, the amount is small compared to Vienna's high cost of living. It is also conditional on registration and compulsory health checks. A pension would go a long way to get women off the game, but only if it were voluntary, confidential and met women's economic needs."

Bills like Bronzan's and the recommendations of the Presidential AIDS Commission can only result in further intimidation, arrests and harassment by the police, especially against those of us who are Black. Legal Action for Women (LAW) — a legal service initiated by US PROS — has taken up cases of prostitute women illegally arrested when they were not working and convicted on police evidence alone. Women who have a record as a "known" prostitute are automatically assumed to be guilty. LAW has found that many women are encouraged to plead guilty by police and lawyers, whether or not they have committed a crime, and are then erroneously convicted of prostitution. This would account for the high level of convictions: about 90 percent of women arrested for prostitution are con-

victed, according to Julie Pearl. Many women have lost custody of their children, had their family lives disrupted and had prospects for future employment undermined as a result of being illegally charged. On top of this, women are now facing the possibility of a felony charge and years in prison under AB 2319, on police evidence alone.

Far from preventing the spread of AIDS, bills like Bronzan's can only penalize poor women further for refusing poverty, and push us further underground, making it harder to gather information about AIDS and to reach women and men who may need medical help. The issue of mandatory testing for people involved in prostitution has serious implications for everyone's right to free confidential health care; to a private life of their choosing; and for human, legal and civil rights generally. If it's prostitute women today, who's next?

The U.S. PROStitutes Collective (US PROS) is a national network of Black women and other women of color and white women working in all levels of the sex industry, as well as other women who support its goals. US PROS is campaigning for abolition of laws against prostitutes, viable economic alternatives to prostitution, and immediate housing, welfare and protection for any woman who wants to leave the profession, including juvenile runaways who depend on prostitution. The women of US PROS are also campaigning for an increase in all income transfer payments (including welfare, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income), for the possibility to work like other self-employed people, against mandatory workfare programs and against immigration control. US PROS is part of the network of the International Prostitutes Collective and is a member organization of the International Wages for Housework Campaign.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Submissions must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, AND NO LONGER THAN FIVE PAGES. Send to: Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N IN THE SUMMERTIME!!!!

Don't you worry, we'll be back. We're taking our summer break next week, so you'll have to make this issue last. You'll next see GCN the first week of September.

Membership Update

GCN's next membership meeting is Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m. Agenda: GCN Retreat, GCN Anthology, Board nominations, Membership meetings calendar, advertising policy and story ideas. All volunteers welcome.

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SPEAKING OUT

One couple's nightmare and the law's failed response

By Nan D. Hunter

Imagine a nightmare: You and your spouse are hurt in a sudden, horrible automobile accident caused by a drunk driver. Your spouse is paralyzed — unable to speak, unable to walk, with almost total paralysis and partial brain damage. In the aftermath, another nightmare begins. Your spouse's parents seek control over all medical decisions and petition the local court for an order of guardianship. The order is granted, and you are forbidden from making contact with the person you love.

Impossible? Probably, absent proof that the excluded spouse was abusive or in some way also impaired. But it is a true story for two women in Minnesota. Because no state allows a gay or lesbian couple to marry, they are not "real" spouses. But Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson had lived together, purchased a home together and exchanged rings in a symbolic ceremony. After Kowalski's car accident in November 1983, however, her parents cut off contact between her and Thompson. Kowalski has been confined since then to a nursing home in a small Minnesota town. The two women haven't seen each other for three years.

The story of Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson — unbelievable for a couple who have been legally married for even one day — is a constant possibility for gay and lesbian couples, no matter how committed or enduring their relationship. The threat of being suddenly cut off from a sick or dying partner is all the more real now because of the thousands of gay men stricken with AIDS.

In most states, the law provides virtually no remedy. Not a single state permits gay or lesbian couples to marry. Because they cannot marry, the partners in a relationship that is functionally identical to a marriage may not be able to secure single-family housing, qualify for joint credit, make medical deci-

sions for each other in moments of crisis, or receive any of the benefits — ranging from the important to the trivial — that automatically accompany marriage.

Unmarried heterosexual couples suffer the same impediments, of course. But they also have the option to marry. Because the option is assumed to exist, there is a common perception that not marrying signals an unwillingness to assume the duties of marriage and a lesser degree of commitment between partners. That is only true when one has a choice.

The value of marriage in our society is both symbolic and material. It is one of the culture's primary affirmations of bonding and affection. And it is also one of the primary economic and legal units that govern people's lives. Denying legal access to that institution to gay and lesbian couples is a fundamental violation of civil liberties. To have one's most important human connection simply ignored by the law is a searing brand of second-class citizenship.

Karen Thompson is still fighting to see Sharon Kowalski. She has petitioned the courts seeking a review of the quality of care being accorded Kowalski, and a Minnesota judge recently ordered competency tests to determine Kowalski's current condition. Sharon's father, who is her guardian, has appealed the testing order. If the tests go forward, they may lead to an independent medical assessment of whether Kowalski herself should be entitled to designate who she wants her visitors to be. The two women may be reunited yet.

But the underlying cause of this particular case will not be resolved until there is legal recognition of the rights and responsibilities of gay and lesbian couples.

Nan D. Hunter is Director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

Colin Higgins, 47

By Michael Bronski

LOS ANGELES — Colin Higgins, a Hollywood screenwriter and director, died of AIDS at his home here Aug. 5. He was 47.

Higgins, who was born in New Caledonia, was best known for his screenplay of the cult classic *Harold and Maude*. The film was made in 1971 and after repeated revivals in repertory houses finally turned a profit in 1983. Since then it has been one of the highest grossing movies on that circuit.

After *Harold and Maude*, Higgins wrote *Silver Streak* and *Foul Play* — which he also directed — establishing him as a major Hollywood talent. In 1980 he scored one of his biggest hits by writing and directing the film *9 to 5*, starring Lily Tomlin, Dolly Parton and Jane Fonda, a film about three harassed women office workers who take revenge on their sexist male boss and force him to change his ways. In 1982 he wrote and directed the film version of the musical *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, offering what many felt was a lighthearted feminist take on the sexual and social hypocrisy forced on women who choose prostitution. His last major project was the television film of Shirley McLaine's spiritual autobiography *Out on a Limb*.

□ filed from Boston

Lesbians

Continued from page 3

district attorney's office to force action on the matter. A Brockton police spokesperson confirmed that Litto was arrested on August 11 on charges of assault and mayhem, and released the following day on his own recognizance. A trial date has been set for

October 21. The police spokesperson declined to comment on Akerblom's accusation of police indifference.

"How can he just be out walking around?" asked Akerblom. Describing Litto as six-foot four-inches tall and 250 lbs., Akerblom said, "He's capable of doing so much damage. I got a broken face out of this!"

Akerblom said she was disturbed by accounts of the incident in local Brockton newspapers that implied she and Maxwell were "two crazy broads" who provoked Litto. According to Akerblom, Litto has told the press and the police that the women threatened to assault him with bricks and a sledgehammer. "He's been so abusive to us, it's just sick," Akerblom said. "And now I understand he has a good lawyer. But everything [about Litto's abusiveness] should come up in court."

Akerblom and Maxwell have not yet secured an attorney, but Akerblom said they hope to get a state-appointed lawyer and sue Litto for medical expenses and other damages. Both women will need to go on general relief to meet expenses, according to Akerblom, who said she has been unable to work since the assault. She has been self-employed in landscape work and other manual labor, and Maxwell works at home and cares for her child.

GCN was unable to reach Litto at press time. □

Pee-Wee

Continued from back page

looked like the gawky guy — can you imagine?) I can only hope for the latter.

With thanks to Christopher Wittke, who still thinks Jessica Rabbit is a hotter ticket than Gina Piccolopupula but would consider a dream date with Gina's brothers. □

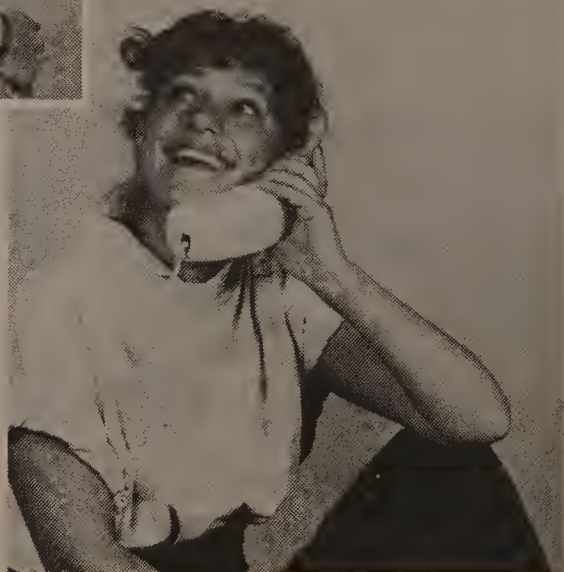
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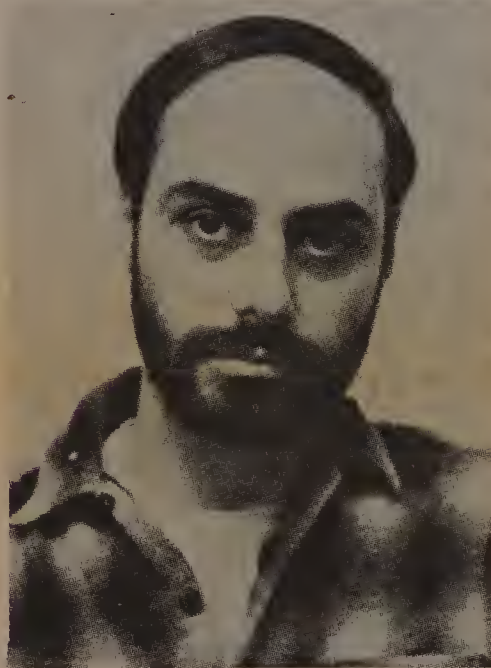

Sal Farinella dies of AIDS

By Michael Bronski

Salvatore (Sal) Farinella, artist, poet and gay activist, died at his home in Boston Sunday July 24 from AIDS. He was 47.

Born in Hartford, Conn., Farinella attended the Goodman School at the Art Institute of Chicago where he studied acting. In 1963 he met Roger Stearns, who became his lover, and in 1969 the two men moved to Boston's South End. In Boston Farinella became involved in community organizing and politics and directed the South End Neighborhood Action Project's (SNAP) Head Start youth program for several years. He was also instrumental in setting up and maintaining the East Berkeley Street Community Gardens. In the gardens, and other locations in the South End, he raised and cultivated period roses, many times donating the bushes to institutions, such as the Boston Center for the Arts, where they could be viewed by the public.

In the mid-'70s, Farinella and Stearns started a decorative painting business which supplied painted furniture and wall murals to Boston interior designers. They soon became famous for their highly successful *trompe l'oeil* wall paintings. *Trompe l'oeil* is a type of representational painting that attempts to "fool the eye" into mistaking the flat surface for reality. Farinella and Stearns had their most prominent examples of this painting featured in *House Beautiful* and *Architectural Digest*.



Sal Farinella

While living in Boston Sal Farinella worked with the *Fag Rag* collective and was one of the founding members of the Good Gay Poets, a group that sponsored readings and was in the vanguard of gay small press publishing. Farinella himself published three books of poetry — *Hunger: First Poems*, *The Orange Telephone*, and *Thieves to Flesh*. He was also the editor of *Night Blooming*, a collection of poems and prose pieces in memory of Allyn Amundson, a local gay artist who died in 1979. Farinella's most recent collection of poetry, *The Floating World*, will be published by Good Gay Poets early next year.

Besides his large family in Hartford, Farinella leaves, in Boston, his lover Roger Stearns, his brother Joseph Farinella and Joseph's lover Bob Donner.

In *Night Blooming* Farinella wrote a prose piece describing his feelings about Allyn Amundson's death. It concluded:

A number of people came to my place after the service. The friends all talked and slowly began to dance and laugh and cry because we missed him so much. When early morning found us still trying to convince ourselves that the day had ended some of us friends went to Chinatown to eat. We kissed each other tenderly good-night amazed at how soft friendship had made our lips. If there is a point to this — it's because the friends who are left miss him so much. □

Conference

Continued from page 3

of journalists, artists and AIDS activists. In fact, the conference became notably enlivened when ACT UP members from across the U.S. appeared on Friday morn-

ing, some fresh from the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta.

Another element of the lesbian/gay community was represented at the conference by substance abuse counselors who advocate the Alcoholics Anonymous "12-Step" model. Pride Institute, a Minnesota center for gay men and lesbians recovering from substance abuse, was one of the conference co-sponsors — there were a number of presentations by Pride staff members and other service providers in the field. Despite their prominence among the conference organizers, substance abuse professionals as a group remained largely outside the political controversies generated at the conference.

Controversies

A major controversy at the conference concerned what I came to call "the dirty little secret." It was aired for the first time on Thursday afternoon at a workshop on "the State of the Art" of safer sex, billed as an update on the latest in safer sex education. The uproar began when the presenter, Mark Behar, concluded his presentation about safe practices without even mentioning oral sex. Moderator Walter Batchlor facilitated the impromptu debate that developed as the crowd steadily grew from its original 30 to over 80 participants.

The "dirty little secret" is this: most health educators believe that unprotected oral sex between men, barring bleeding gums or open sores in the mouth, is not a high risk activity for transmitting HIV. But to judge from the blushes and incomplete responses to key questions, it seems some AIDS educators regularly participate in oral sex even though they tell others it is unsafe. Debate ensued over whether or not AIDS educators should continue to classify unprotected oral sex between men as a "risky" behavior.

This debate emerged again and again as the conference continued. People against "de-riskifying" oral sex gave a multitude of reasons for maintaining the status quo. Some said they feared the AIDS service community would be seen as "changing the rules" in midstream, thereby leading to a loss of credibility. Others expressed fear that gay men would be confused by complicated safer sex guidelines, and said they preferred to stick with the easy to understand "on me, not in me" rule.

A major factor in the debate was clearly "fear of the Fed." Most of the major AIDS education and service groups get much of their money from state or federal agencies. Far from promoting "safer sex," most government agencies have opposed explicitly sexual educational materials; some have censored pamphlets that stray too far from the official line that monogamy and celibacy are the only ways to avoid AIDS. And several AIDS organizations have had local legislatures cut their funding in response to "obscene" safer sex literature. Telling the public that unprotected oral sex between men is safe could outrage the federal and state governments and any community agency that "blows the whistle" could risk losing its funds.

The conference divided nearly right down the middle on this issue. Service agency staff tended to be against a change in guidelines. Academics, perhaps more concerned with scientific fact than the politics of funding, tended to favor "de-riskifying" oral sex. International delegates were uniformly in favor of updating the guidelines; for example, Canada and West Germany both recently changed safer sex guidelines to state that oral sex between men without a rubber is not a high risk activity. (A West German pamphlet titled "Safer Sex Comic #5" states: "In the beginning everything was uncertain and recommendations had to be made quickly. Out of caution, some of them might have gone a little too far.") ACT UP members were most militant on the issue, as demonstrated by their "Oral is Moral and Safe" buttons. Ultimately, no consensus was reached on the issue.

Other controversies at the conference also illuminated the spectrum of opinion present. The participants at a workshop on "Challenging Safer Sexism" signed a petition denouncing the "expertism" of the conference and complaining of the mainstreaming effect of the event's high cost and its emphasis on professionals and experts. A debate on sexual addiction emerged following a workshop on "Social Aspects of Prevention." Some academics and international participants argued that the creation of the diagnosis of "sexual ad-

Continued on page 12

HOW TO HAVE SEX
by Michael Callen
Tops and Bottoms Music (BMI)

There across a crowded room
Stood the man of my dreams
He was a long and lean
mean sex machine
packed in tight 501 jeans
Ooooh, he looked me over
From my head down to my shoes
Then he said "Sorry, boy,
but where you been?
Ain't you heard the news?"
He said "Oh, no, I'm not crazy,
I don't take no chance
I don't kiss, I just reminisce
And I keep it in my pants"

Oh, I'm goin' crazy
Will someone tell me
what's a poor boy to do?
They say I can't do this
and I can't do that
Oh, I'm soooo confused
Can't it be like the fantasy?
Can't it be like it used to be?
Can't it be like the fantasy?
How to have sex in an epidemic
Without getting caught up in
polemic

Home alone, late at night
Takin' matters into my own hands
Lay back, relax, betamax
playin' those
"Boys in the Sand"
Achlin', Shakin'
Just a-lookin' for a little release
When in burst the P.C.
(Politically Correct)
Safe Sex and Thought Police
"Stop right there!
We've come to put you to the test
You'd better call your lawyer, boy,
you're under house arrest"

REPEAT CHORUS

Oh, I miss the '70's
Things seemed so simple then
So many men, so little time
Ah, I remember when
Where will it end my friends?
Can you tell me? Who can say?
When what is safe
and what is not
Changes day by day
Got a lemon?
Learn to make some lemonAID
Use a rubber, find a lover
In time you will discover
It's OK to get laid

REPEAT CHORUS

How to have sex
How to have sex
How to have sex

Vocals: Michael Callen,
Richard Dworkin
Synthesizers: Elliot Sokolov,
Michael Callen, Richard Dworkin



Pop music and summer-time. The two go together

like Wall Street and an ACT UP demonstration. In the dog days of recent summers past we've asked "Who's That Girl?" along with Madonna, and danced across Aretha Franklin's "Freeway of Love." And the same goes for this year — from beaches to city streets, we listen and dance and cruise to great tunes blaring from our radios and boom boxes. The problem is that the songs almost always talk to us without talking *about* us.

It's no secret that the pop music establishment hasn't exactly beaten down a wide path in clamoring to be inclusive of the lesbian and gay community. Oh, there have always been the "Are they or aren't they?" pop stars that manage to achieve mainstream success without lyrically dealing with anything resembling our lives. So we queer listeners have to do some quick Pop Music Translation, mentally changing the pronouns sung by our favorite singers. This summer I've been changing back the gender references in George Michael's latest single as quickly as George changed them to female.

Then of course there's always been the Barry Manilow Method of saying coy little things like "Reporters have been trying to get into my bed for years, no comment," to *People* magazine a few years back. Oh Barry! And there's the David Bowie revolving-door theory of bisexuality. At last report he was still publicly straight. Johnny Mathis actually did identify himself as gay a few years ago and absolutely no public stir was caused. Not a single fundamentalist record burning or riot in the street.

Then there are groups like England's Pet Shop Boys who never even *make* gender references, and it's fun to read about openly gay Jimmy Somerville of the Communards calling them "closeted cowards" for refusing to take part in a massive London AIDS benefit. But at some point it seems that hoping for the Pet Shop Boys to come out is Liberace-level redundant. They wouldn't exactly be telling us anything we didn't already know. So this summer the pop stations played the Boys' infectious cover of "Always On My Mind" (made famous by Elvis Presley and later made more famous by Willie Nelson) and MTV showed their homoerotic lead-singer-looks-

longingly-at-the-cab-driver video and the world kept on turning.

But what does "Always on My Mind" have to do with the condition of the world, or with our community's little corner of it? Good God, absolutely nothing. And except for a couple of really dippy disco tunes that surfaced about a year ago — "Uh-Uh No No (Casual Sex)" springs instantly to mind — you'd think that AIDS was a figment of our imagination, or a tiny problem with easy solutions, (i.e. don't have sex). It's sad to realize that most of the closeted queers who have penetrated the walls of the heterosexist pop industry are too busy singing about their lust for members of the opposite sex to realize how out of touch they are.

Of course, many lesbian musicians forswore mainstream success years ago and built unthinkably large at-the-time followings. They were out-of-the-closet-performers who weren't afraid to sing it the way they felt it.

Is there any gay male parallel? Not really. There have been some small-label folk singer/songwriters, and popular touring groups like Romanovsky and Phillips acting as a tonic for the troops, but this scene hasn't snowballed into the avalanche of music festivals and retreats so common in women's music. Instead, the job has fallen on a few out gay men making pop music, for both major and independent labels. They are injecting a decidedly gay male sensibility into their songs and singing proudly about everything from the male objects of their affection, to the horrors of AIDS, to the joy of dancing the night away.

In the summer of 1988, it sure was fun to blast some or all of the following records in public and private displays of musical abandon. And to hear at least one of these groups make further inroads on pop music radio.



Michael Callen, Cruise Control and The Communards — gay men's music to be out about

By Christopher Wittke

Red The Communards London/MCA Records

When lead singer Jimmy Somerville abandoned the group Bronski Beat a couple of years ago to form The Communards with Richard Coles, it looked as if the split would result in two major-label, upfront gay male pop bands with penchants for political lyrics and infectious beats.

But things seemed to go a bit off track with the release of the first post-Somerville Bronski Beat album *Truth Dare Double Dare*. It failed to achieve the admirable sales figures of the first album, *Age of Consent*, which featured the single "Smalltown Boy," a coming of age/coming out tune that was a surprise chart hit. And given that founding member Steve Bronski has recently been touring gay discos in the southern U.S. as a solo act, it looks as if Bronski Beat, Mach II is a thing of the past.

Which leaves us with The Communards. Their first single, a cover of "Don't Leave Me This Way," was a hit two years ago in gay discos, where people can't seem to get enough of that trademark Somerville falsetto. Late last year The Communards released their second album, *Red*, in Europe. It eventually received an American release (and a hefty ad campaign in a large chunk of the gay bar rag press), and what a gem of an album it is.

This year's disco cover from The Communards, "Never Can Say Goodbye," got heavy airplay on pop stations around the country including Boston's mega-popular KISS 108-FM. For those of us who knew the high voice coming out of the speaker belonged to a man it was always a thrill to hear "I never can say goodbye, boy..."! Such simple, subversive pleasure.

But an even deeper pleasure comes from the group's original songs, composed by Somerville and Coles and dealing directly with gay male experience. Love, AIDS, and gay male partner abuse are all treated with various levels of lyrical success, mixed with impeccable tunes and very catchy pop hooks.

There are two songs that deal specifically with AIDS on *Red*. "Victims" is a treatise on the politics of AIDS ("No one to blame, there's only victims...") which is detached and not particularly moving because of its third-person narrative (and the poor word choice of "victim"). Much more successful is "For A Friend," Cole's tribute to a friend who died of AIDS. Easily the best song on the album and alone worth the purchase price, there probably hasn't been a sweeter and more heartfelt look at the subject. "Friend" offers immediacy in its first-person survivor narrative: "Somewhere else, Someone else is crying too, Another man has lost a friend, I bet he feels the way I do... As I watch the sun go down, Watching the world fade away, All I want to do is kiss you once goodbye." To really listen to Somerville's plaintive delivery of lyrics like "I'll never let you down, all the dreams we shared, I will carry on...goodbye..." is to be reduced to tears. And to think, some people consider musical pabulum like "That's What Friends Are For," ("Keep shining, keep smiling...") to be the definitive AIDS pop song. "For A Friend" is one of the best examples so far of the real story.

Another album highlight is the bouncy "There's More To Love Than Boy Meets Girl," which celebrates the same sex alternative. "Tomorrow" is a great sounding song that attempts to be empowering for survivors of partner abuse ("You may break the skin but you can't kill the soul, I've had all I can take..."). A nice try, but simplistic in its view, because battering can

go a long way toward destroying the "soul." "Hold On Tight" sounds like the finale of the Great Gay Broadway Musical, as if the kids from *Fame* finally decided to come out with all of the energy they could muster. And in the curiosity corner is "If I Could Tell You," credited on the record label to "J. Somerville — W.H. Auden."

All in all, *Red* is a fine album that probably didn't live up to the advertising budget MCA put behind it. This could, of course, not bode well for future Communards' releases. But even if we never heard from this group again (their overseas success is probably insurance against this — and let's hope so because they have yet to record their cover of ABBA's "Dancing Queen," a Communards concert-closer) they've certainly produced a shimmering masterpiece with "For A Friend."



Randy Morrison (L) and Stewart Pfalzer listen to the final mixes of "No Condom No Sex" by Cruise Control.

"No Condom No Sex" Cruise Control Sire/Warner Bros.

A simple 12-inch dance single with a provocative title? Heck, no! In the world of the music industry, Cruise Control's "No Condom No Sex" is a very big deal. In the words of openly-gay producer Randy Morrison, this "is the first time a major record label has been willing to release a record written, performed and produced by gays and one that is of special interest to and will directly benefit the gay community."

The jacket of this single proclaims that "100% of the artists and producers profits from this record will be donated for AIDS education," although it doesn't specify what organizations. Also listed is the number for the National AIDS Hotline (1-800-342-7514) and Linea Abierta Espanol (I-800-344-7432) and a lengthy list of individuals and companies who donated their services in the making of "No Condom No Sex." From the industry that brought us Band Aid and Live Aid, an AIDS benefit record made by gay men for gay men shouldn't be such an innovation in 1988. But this is the first, and it deserves our support.

So what about the record? "No Condom No Sex" is a dance single with about 30 minutes of music, five different versions of the same song. And what about the song? "No Condom No Sex" is very catchy, it's got a good beat and you can dance to it. I give it a 90.

"Just a minute of your time," go the lyrics, "Let reason govern passion ... You know there's only one thing you must say,

No Condom No Sex, Say it like you mean it ... Say 'Do it for you, and do it for me...'. "

"No Condom..." is reminiscent of a good Depeche Mode composition. The synth-pop music percolates under the dream-like vocals (which sound like those of Boston band Another Day) and of course, like all good dance music, it's repetitious. The chorus is chanted again and again until it's etched into your brain.

At first listen I thought, "You can't really hear the words, it sounds like 'Na na na no sex...'" which hardly seemed sex positive to me. But then halfway through the Rock Single Mix (as opposed to the Let Reason Govern Passion Mix and the wonderful Chamber Acappella Mix) the lyrics really kicked in for me and my feet started tapping. I found if I listened to this tune when I got up in the morning I was still singing it at bedtime. "No condom no sex" over and over again.

And guess what? It's long been known that the best AIDS education campaigns repeat simple information over and over again and that safe sex recidivism is lessened in people who are continually bombarded with its message. Is it possible that playing this 12-inch in dance clubs could save lives?! That'd be a nice side benefit to this hot track. Kudos to Morrison for a fine production job and to composer Stewart Pfalzer. And thanks for the donation to the gay community, Warner Bros.; it was the least you could do after we pushed Madonna into the stratosphere for you. "Expression of your love today, There's only one thing you must say, No Condom No Sex." Oh no, there I go again!

Purple Heart Michael Callen Significant Other Records

This is a great album. I may not always agree with the things that Callen, outspoken activist and longtime surviving person with AIDS, says in interviews, but when somebody puts out an album of ten songs in various pop styles and I absolutely love nine of them, I've just gotta say — this is a great album!

I remember coming across an article a few years back in either the *Village Voice* or *The Advocate* talking about a rock band called Lowlife. Two dykes, Janet Cleary and Pam Brandt on guitar and bass, Callen on keyboards and his lover Richard Dworkin on drums. The music was described as having an interesting punky garage sound with a decidedly queer bent. The four shared vocal duties and their between-song patter sounded hilarious. I worked in a record store at the time, and always hoped to see an independent Lowlife single surface, but I never found such a thing, if ever it existed. And Lowlife never appeared in my neck of the woods.

As it turns out, two of the best cuts on *Purple Heart* were recorded by Lowlife in 1985. Their campy cover of "Where the Boys Are" opens side one and ends with Callen sustaining a note for about 20 seconds. This isn't something that many singers who have *not* been inhaling aerosolized penatmidine since Day One of their AIDS diagnosis six years ago can do. Just listening to Callen hold that sucker leaves me gasping for breath.

The other Lowlife tune is "Living in Wartime," an ACT UP/New York anthem of sorts and probably my favorite song on the album. "Wartime" has the tension-release wooshiness of the very best rock and roll, and lyrics that just won't quit. "They try to break our spirits, try to keep us in our place, They do it to the women and the poor of

every race, We face a common enemy: bigotry and greed, But if we fight together we can find the strength we need..." The fire of AIDS activism captured forever on vinyl in beautiful Lowlife harmonies, for that alone we are indebted, Mr. Callen!

"Talking Old Soldiers," and "Me & Dickie D" are similar in that the former is an Elton John song and the latter sounds like one. "Dickie D" is a love song to the drummer that would only be more fun if Kiki Dee did it with Callen as a duet. "Talking Old Soldiers," a story of war veterans reminiscing in a bar, is like a flash-forward on "Living in Wartime" and is dedicated to Dr. Joseph Sonnabend, "for keeping me alive."

"How to Have Sex" may be the song where the opinions of the artist and this reviewer part company. When I first listened to it I marvelled that someone could write a lyric that looks as bad on paper as does "How to have sex in an epidemic, without getting caught up in polemic..." and still manage to make it sound good. This upbeat song shares the title of the landmark safe sex-positive booklet "How To Have Sex in an Epidemic" which Callen helped write in the early days of the AIDS crisis. But then I read Callen's recent interview in *The Advocate* (July 19, 1988) and I found myself hoping he had been misquoted. He says:

That song is my attempt to apologize for the role I've played in the safe-sex movement. I really loathe how people try to make safe sex a pleasurable thing. That's bullshit. We pigged out, and now it's over. Safe sex is making the best of a lousy situation. Trying to sell it like it's fun is pathetic.

Excuse me? This is the same man who later says that his philosophy of life is "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade?" If, in fact, he wrote the song for the above-mentioned reasons I'm glad he was struck by a momentary case of inarticulateness because the song does not convey those meanings. The song seems positive to me and Callen's feelings about it sound creepy.

The one real clinker on the album is "Love Don't Need A Reason." Perhaps I'm biased against this song because I was forced to sit through a Peter Allen concert last summer when my lover won tickets from a radio station. Allen performed it, having co-written the song with Callen and Marsha Malamet. Though Callen's vocal performance on record is a billion times better than Peter Allen's concert rendition, it's hard not to gag on lyrics like "Love don't need a reason, Love don't always rhyme [huh?], And love is all we have for now, What we don't have is time." If we're not careful, this song is going to succeed the dreadful "That's What Friends Are For" as the new hyper-sentimental AIDS anthem.

The good news is the rest of the songs are wonderful, including "Nobody's Fool" which is like a Harry Chapin narrative that works! "On the Other Side" has an overwrought chorus but a compelling piano line, and Callen pulls the whole thing off. The final song on the LP is "I'd Like To Be (Home)," a stunningly beautiful multi-track a cappella piece.

Simply put, *Purple Heart* is a must-have. If this were a perfect world, its follow up would be a Lowlife album and world tour, although I'm not sure the band is still together. Barring that I'll take lots more Michael Callen records and I'll avoid reading his interviews!

Purple Heart is available from Significant Other Records, P.O. Box 1545, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013. Specify record or cassette. \$10 (including postage). "No Condom No Sex" should be available at hip record stores everywhere, as is Red. □

Dykes to Watch Out For



SF strike

Continued from page 1

disabilities was "reprehensible" and damaging to the many workers with AIDS. They also said that by rejecting bereavement leave for domestic partners, the hospitals were favoring heterosexual workers. In the only concession to the union, Affiliated agreed to reinstate health care benefits cut on May 10.

Nearly 50 health care workers and lesbian and gay activists staged a demonstration in front of Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center on May 2, demanding health care benefits for hospital workers with AIDS or ARC. The signs proclaimed, "Money for AIDS and Health Benefits," "AIDS Benefits — Not Union Busting," and "Fight AIDS, Not Health Workers With AIDS."

John Mehring, a gay man with ARC who represented Local 250 on the negotiations committee, spoke out at the protest. He was quoted in the *Bay Area Reporter* as saying "The hospitals give good health care and treatment to patients, while employees with ARC and AIDS are being denied health benefits. We give so much of ourselves in caring for these patients, and we want the same kind of care for ourselves that we are giving to others."

Local 250 was forced into a defensive negotiating posture by Affiliated's management, who threatened to take away gains the union had made in recent years, Mehring told *GCN*. He said Local 250 dropped several demands, including demands important to lesbian and gay members, in order to retain comprehensive health care benefits and to salvage the union. "We felt terrible giving up on our issues but the hospitals were out to break the union. We were on the verge of losing our health coverage which is so important to our members. If the gay men in the union, like myself, who have AIDS or who are HIV [antibody] positive lose this security we really would have been in trouble," said Mehring.

One of the most progressive unions in the country, Local 250 represents technical workers, dieticians, nurses, housekeepers, and psychiatric assistants. Mehring stressed that the union's workers are vulnerable because the hospitals believe they are replaceable. "Unions that do not represent workers who are highly skilled have taken a beating lately. It's risky even to go out. We had little leverage," said Mehring. He said workers considered "unskilled" by hospital

management depend on community support for successful negotiations.

John Gustofson, spokesperson for Affiliated Hospitals, denied Affiliated attempted to destroy the union and told *GCN* that Local 250's demands were either too expensive for the hospitals or already covered by the city. He explained that bereavement leave in addition to Affiliated's "already generous" sick leave policy was simply too expensive for the financially-strapped hospitals. He added that the city's strong Human Rights Commission (HRC) is set up to protect the physically disabled and for the hospitals to adopt such a policy amounted to "double jeopardy" for the employer.

Mehring disagreed, claiming that the hospitals are making money because of the epidemic while forcing low-income PWAs to go to public hospitals. He explained that the HRC does protect employees from discrimination but that the long and cumbersome appeals process is too difficult for many PWAs to undertake.

Mehring praised the lesbian and gay community for its support of the workers throughout the strike. "The gay community helped bring to light many problems with the health care system. They were able to use their experience to show that the hospitals were more concerned with money than in services for the community. They lose interest in PWAs as soon as they find they have no health insurance. Affiliated uses workers to care for PWAs, but once the workers get AIDS they are deserted. The community made this very clear," said Mehring.

Maurice Beloti, president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, said health care workers and the lesbian and gay community are natural allies. "We have a history of working together. We walked the picket lines, brought food to the strikers and spoke out on their behalf," said Beloti. He added the lesbian and gay community used its clout to get Mayor Art Agnos involved in negotiations.

□ filed from Boston

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Bush

Continued from page 1

The gay and lesbian activities at the convention began on Saturday, Aug. 13, with an evening memorial service and demonstration for an end to the AIDS crisis. About 500 people gathered in New Orleans' Armstrong Park to hear nine speakers, including Kip Mullen, co-chair of New Orleans' Regional Chapter of the Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus; Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, and New Orleans Mayor Sidney J. Barthelemy. Barthelemy's remarks were interrupted by activists in the crowd shouting "work harder, more money," prompting the mayor to leave the rally.

On Sunday, ACT UP led an energetic kiss-in and march through New Orleans' French Quarter. The kiss-in climaxed at the city's main cathedral just as Sunday Mass was ending. Archbishop Phillip Hannan of the New Orleans archdiocese, viewing the demonstration, denied that the church has hindered the fight against AIDS. "It sickens me to see these people kissing," added Carolyn Grove, an alternate delegate from the state of Washington.

On Monday afternoon, ACT UP "zapped" a "Grand Old Party" at the New Orleans Museum of Art, hosted by the Eagle Forum. The celebrity affair featured appearances by former federal judge and Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork; former United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick; Archbishop Hannan, and former secretary of Education William Bennett. About 30 ACT UP protesters positioned themselves in full view of the entering limousines and taxis, chanting, "Racist, Sexist, Anti-Gay, Eagle Forum — KKK!" Mr. Bork told GCN that the protesters "are wrong" about his allegedly bigoted attitudes, but he refused to elaborate. Republican Sen. Phill Gramm of Texas denied that the Reagan Administration's response to AIDS has been inadequate. Gramm said, "the funding is skyrocketing."

Also on Monday, March On!, an activist group from Sacramento, Calif., led a "die-in" in front of New Orleans City Hall. About 50 people drew outlines of bodies on the sidewalk as a crowd of onlookers observed. Each body outline was also identified with the name of someone who had died of AIDS. This demonstration was immediately followed by a protest organized by the "Mothers Against AIDS." The two mothers, Sue Caves and Barbara Cleaver, who are both California Republicans, tried to present a letter to President Reagan at the convention site. In the letter, they asked Reagan to take action on AIDS treatment issues.

On Monday evening, gay Republicans celebrated their visibility within the GOP and the gay community. A reception at the Mint, a gay bar, was attended by about 50 people. The event featured a brief speech by Garry Bastian, a member of the Board of Directors at United Republicans for Equality and Privacy (UREP). UREP is an umbrella group for gay Republican political clubs.

Bastian commented, "We're fighting the two phobia twins — homophobia among Republicans and 'Republiphobia' among gays." Bastian added that there are now 11 clubs in UREP, and three more are being formed.

Most gay activists at the convention disagreed with UREP's support of the Bush/Quayle ticket. Gay and Lesbian Voice '88, a coalition of national gay civil rights and AIDS organizations, including NGLTF and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), stated, "The selection of Senator Quayle — combined with the Republican Platform's stand on AIDS — raises serious concerns about the commitment of Vice President Bush and the Republican Party to fighting the nation's major health crisis. Quayle has not supported responsible AIDS policy and has opposed gay and lesbian civil rights. The Party [Platform's] failure to endorse the [Presidential] Commission's Report calls into question Bush's commitment to fighting AIDS. The Platform is also silent on civil rights for the 20 million gay and lesbian Americans."

Eric Rosenthal, Political Director at HRCF, added, "The platform drafters didn't overlook the Presidential Commission's report — they explicitly rejected it. George Bush controlled this platform, and if he'd wanted an endorsement of what [Commission Chair Admiral James] Watkins wrote, there would have been an endorsement."

The platform itself includes five brief paragraphs about AIDS. Among its recommendations are the following: "abstinence from drug use and sexual activity outside of marriage...; testing and contact tracing...; and penalties for ... deliberately endangering others." □

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Foster care

Continued from page 1

sion came down. He told a press conference, "If that's the ruling of the Supreme Judicial Court, we will obviously comply."

Buseck said he was not sure whether the Babets/Jean lawsuit and the ongoing con-



Don Babets
troverly surrounding Dukakis' foster care policy would factor into the presidential race. Noting that the SJC ruling received little mainstream press coverage, Buseck said, "I'm vastly torn between thinking Dukakis wants to garner gay support, and thinking that he wants to be seen as anti-gay. His campaign has taken a stand [against foster parenting by lesbians and gay men], and they may not care how it is resolved. Dukakis and his administration may be equally irritated that they may have to hand over documents on other matters."

Broader implications

GLAD executive director Kevin Cathcart, who played a key role as an advocate for Babets and Jean, applauded the SJC ruling. "The decision clearly establishes the public's right to know how the governor's foster care policy was formulated. It is ironic that [Dukakis] would try to keep documents secret that the lower court found were highly relevant to our suit."

Cathcart was referring to an earlier decision by Superior Court Judge James Lynch which ordered the foster care documents released, but stayed the order until a higher court could decide the issue of executive privilege. In writing the SJC ruling this week, Chief Justice Edward Hennessey stated Lynch "correctly ruled that there presently exists no privilege of the type the defendants assert."

According to Cathcart, the decision has universal impact. He said, "The right of citizens to know how public officials determine policy is a cornerstone of democracy."

Other cases which may be immediately affected by the SJC decision include a suit concerning the proposed building of a state prison in New Braintree, and a challenge over alleged poor conditions at Bridgewater State Hospital.

Roderick MacLeish, the attorney who brought suit against Bridgewater, called the SJC ruling great news. "This is very reassuring," MacLeish told the *Globe*. "So often the government hides behind the shield of government privilege. For anybody handling cases against the government, this is an invaluable tool." □

Conference

Continued from page 7
diction” was inherently dangerous. Claimed a Dutch delegate, “Would a gay therapist help a man who wanted to be ‘cured’ of homosexuality, or a feminist therapist a woman who wished to be made more dependent?” But believers in the “sexual addiction” diagnosis argued that no one should deny a person the right to label themselves in a way that helps them deal with their problems.

The most obvious conflict arose at Frank Young’s speech on Saturday afternoon. Young, commissioner of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), appeared in a stately white military uniform to explain FDA drug approval policies (see *GCN*, Vol. 16, No. 4). He was met by hundreds of ACT UP members and other AIDS activists who staged die-ins, held up beeping watches, rattled banners, and pointed a large cardboard “finger of shame” at him. This event got good media coverage, but was apparently difficult for some conference-goers to understand. Was this a debate, a dialogue, or a confrontation?

Conclusion

The health conference succeeded at its basic task — it provided a forum for the national lesbian/gay service and academic communities to meet and exchange information and opinions. The discussions were often heated but rarely nasty, despite the broad spectrum of attitudes present. It was a unique opportunity for an intra-community debate, and issues that would not likely be aired among mainstream health professionals were explored in depth.

However, the insidious impact of the mainstream was apparent. The “oral minority,” though they believe the public should be told that unprotected oral sex between men is safe, aren’t actually publicizing this position themselves (with the notable exception of ACT UP). And much of the lesbian/gay community has avoided confronting government opinion or policy. For example, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop’s much ballyhooed national mailing about AIDS states flat out that anal sex “with or without a condom” is unsafe; but no one in the gay community has even commented upon, let alone protested, this lie. It is a clear sign of health that the lesbian and gay community was able to discuss and debate such issues at this conference. It remains unclear why we are slow to raise such issues outside our own communities. □

Dementia

Continued from page 3

chers caution practitioners and both asymptomatic and symptomatic persons to be wary of the subtle differences between this disease and other dementias. They also stressed the necessity for early diagnosis and intervention.

Van Gorp said that the definition of dementia set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is “very vague,” and that he and Buckingham prefer a definition coined by D. Frank Benson and Jeff Cummings at the University of California at Los Angeles: “acquired, persistent impairment with compromised language, memory, visual/spatial skills, personality and cognition.” The presenters also pointed out that while most clinicians treat dementias alike, AIDS dementia is, in fact, quite different from Alzheimer’s and other dementias. For example, among people with AIDS dementia there is a pattern of forgetfulness, and a disproportionate impact on nonverbal memory. Unlike other dementias, recognition of words and their meanings are relatively preserved among people with AIDS dementia. As the disease progresses, more physical impairment may be noticeable — like slower speech, clumsiness, changes in walking and reaction time. More severe motor abnormalities and forgetfulness can also occur, but without the full amnesia (as with Alzheimer’s), and generally language remains intact.

Implications of dementia research and diagnosis

Van Gorp strongly advised researchers studying early brain involvement and HIV infection to retain a sense of “social responsibility” when reporting their findings, because there can be serious implications for generalizing results of admittedly small studies in this very new field. Recalling Igor Grant’s study of 15 asymptomatic persons

(reported last year in the *Annals of Medicine*), Van Gorp noted that the reported 44 percent rate of dementia resulted in a special meeting convened at the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) and a military policy change. Asymptomatic seropositive pilots, bombers and technical personnel were disqualified from “high risk” posts. Also mentioned at the workshop was the fact that “dementia” terminology itself carries negative connotations.

Van Gorp also stressed the need for researchers to be mindful of past and present substance use by study participants that might compromise their performance on neurological examinations.

Buckingham and Van Gorp cautioned clinicians considering a dementia diagnosis to be sure to rule out other conditions which could cause symptoms similar to dementia, like metastatic tumors, toxoplasmosis (a brain infection), and toxic overmedication. Workshop participants and the presenters gave several examples of people being treated for severe depression — who were in fact afflicted with AIDS encephalopathy — with anti-depressants that brought about mania and other frightening side effects.

Treatment

According to Van Gorp, there is some evidence that AZT “may reduce dementia or even reverse its progression.” He stressed the “final verdict is not in.” AZT is now being made available in research trials to asymptomatic people who are seropositive, even though its side effects are often toxic. A PWA attending the workshop said he had found ritalin helpful as well in dealing with his encephalopathy. The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR) is also funding a study at Baylor University comparing a variety of drugs used to treat encephalopathy.

The presenters said caregivers who often misdiagnose or overlook AIDS dementia commonly think their patients lack motivation. People with AIDS dementia “don’t necessarily lack motivation,” said Buckingham, “they are more likely to lack the ability to initiate or strategize.” As a result, sufficient structure and stimulation with the help of those who care for people with encephalopathy can make the difference in their battle against the depression and social withdrawal common with the disease. Suicide is something to be aware of for caregivers, as well, since people with encephalopathy are often aware of their declining cognitive skills and experience anxiety, panic, anger and sadness.

The presenters added that group therapy may be helpful for people who have encephalopathy. Estate planning, daily task planning, and the development of new hobbies and “quiet time” to concentrate without distraction were discussed as possible goals for individual and couples therapy.

Noting the high degree of specialization and scattered availability of neuropsychologists and psychiatrists familiar with HIV infection — particularly outside the major urban areas on the East and West Coasts — Buckingham and Van Gorp listed several tests for caregivers considering a diagnosis of encephalopathy. They suggested Trails A and B, Digit Symbol, RAVLT, Grooved pegboard and “some measure of affect.” □

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Assessing individual risk for AIDS and other illnesses is the first step towards using safer sex and drug use guidelines. Only you and your partner(s) can decide how much risk is acceptable — take stock of your sexual and drug use histories.

Be aware that the highest concentrations of HIV (the virus widely thought to cause AIDS) are found in blood and semen. The most common routes of HIV transmission are through sharing needles and unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse.

GCN's guidelines come from a wide variety of sources aimed at various communities concerned about the AIDS epidemic and health in general. We want to confront the prevailing “no sex is best” attitude and present an approach that is as sex-positive as possible.

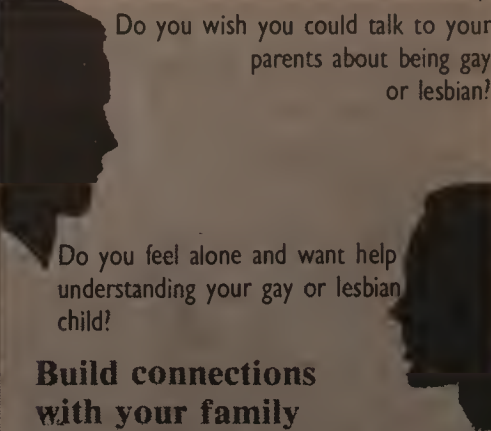
Information for gay male, lesbian and bisexual communities

Safer sex can include: massage, hugging, kissing, erotic talk, phone sex, masturbation (solo, pairs and groups), using your own vibrators, dildos or other sex toys and s/m, butch/fem role-playing, fantasy scenes, bondage and other activities that do not involve the exchange of semen or blood (including menstrual blood).

Do not allow a partner’s semen or blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) to enter your vagina, anus, mouth or breaks in your skin.

Use condoms for fucking (anal and vaginal intercourse), for licking/sucking penises and for covering dildos and other sex toys. Use water-based lubricants. Use latex barriers (dental dams or other plastic/latex materials) between the genital area and mouth when licking/sucking cunts and assholes. Be especially careful to avoid the exchange of menstrual blood. Using nonoxynol-9 or other spermicides with condoms and latex barriers may add extra protection.

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Your body’s ability to fight all disease, including AIDS and its related illnesses (such as Kaposi’s Sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia), may be benefitted by general good health — good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol, poppers and other drugs.

If you use IV drugs, follow the guidelines below.

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Do not share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers).

Do not re-use needles; use fresh cottons each time.

If you must share or re-use your works, clean them as follows: dip needle and works into 100 percent bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into water, draw up and release three times (in an emergency, rubbing alcohol, vodka or wine can also be used). As an alternative, boil works in water for at least fifteen minutes. Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.

Resource phone numbers

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514
 AIDS Action Committee (AAC), Boston: (617) 437-7733
 AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200
 Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655
 National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C.: (202) 544-1076
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GM, 36, piano, goldfish, seek two responsible non-smokers for large 3BR duplex. Very close to T, shopping. Avail 9/1 \$230-plus util and sec. Heat included. Charlie 666-4283. (7)

HOUSEMATES — MANCHESTER NH

Divorced GM seeks 2GWM 7 room ranch near Saint Anslem College. \$55 a week, many extras, call (603) 624-8955. (7)

3 LF's seek another for sunny spacious semi-coop home near Porter Square, Cambridge. We have 2 cats, no more pets, min. drugs or alcohol. Avail. Sept. 1, 250 plus call 491-4005. (7)

GREAT SOMERVILLE APT

2 LF's seek same to share 3 bedrm apt. Non-smok, quiet, semi-coop, share veggie foods. Have yard, sm. dog, no cats. Near Davis Sq. T. 300-plus, Sept. 1. 776-6612. (7)

YOUR NEW HOME

Could be in a sunny Victorian House on Jones Hill. Porches, den, piano, parking, near T, stores. Friendly, eclectic professional LF 31 seeks LF/GM ASAP 282-2962. (7)

HOUSING WANTED

OH GIVE ME A HOME...

LF 30 seeks 1 bedroom apartment with basement or garage \$400 plus, need 9/1 possible work exchange, 1 restore houses, carpentry, painting. Call Terri 666-8842. (7)

Two responsible, wonderful women seeking sunny, beautiful 5-6 room apartment in Jamaica Plain, Sept. 1. Non-smokers, non-drinkers. Call Lisa or Story, (617) 522-4720, (617) 522-5381. (8)

I STILL NEED A HOME!

Gay man (26) seeking home by Sept. 1 in Boston/Cambridge area. 1 school and work in Cambridge and would like to move in with others committed to mostly independent, friendly, cohabitation. 300 including, tops. Kenji, 262-7320. (8)

APARTMENTS

2 BEDROOM/ON T

Ashmont Lower Mills, great location, tree lined street one block from T. 2 bedrooms, L, D, eat-in kitchen w/pantry, disposal, w/d hook-up, porch, plenty of on street parking, gay owner occupied, no pets. 750 plus util. 436-4507 (8)

FOR RENT SEPT. — 3 RM APT.

Sunny, hwd, flrs. Off street parking, bus route. 15 min. to Braintree, rural. \$520 plus heat. 767-2336. (7)

SUMMER RENTALS

Enjoy Provincetown in September after the summer rush and retreat to peace and quiet — 2 bedroom, parking, weekly-monthly, call 487-0757. (7)

FOR SALE

Airplane tickets for sale. Only \$125 or best offer. Fly Boston to San Francisco August 31. Call Suzanne or Sabrina at (207) 372-6353 must sell! (7)

LOWELL CONDO...PRICED TO SELL

2 bedroom 1 1/2 bath 1300 sq. ft. townhouse, fully appliances, central air. W/D hookup, excellent location. \$99K 395-1602 lve. message. (10)

PROVINCETOWN

Art gallery, studio space, 1,165 sq. ft., centrally located. Beautiful lighting, \$90,000 — lots of possibilities — buy alone or as a group — keep overhead low. (617) 487-0757. (7)

VACATIONS

GREENHOPE FARM

Escape to the peace and privacy of Vermont. Secluded lesbian farm offers veg. cuisine, cozy rooms with views and daily trail rides on our own gentle horses. Waterfall skinny dipping. Early fall foliage. (802) 533-7772. (9)

DISCOVER NEW ENGLAND'S GAY INN

Spend long, lazy days by the pool and cool nights by a crackling fire or in our hot tub. Our 100 acre mountain setting offers peace, privacy, beautiful views, spectacular sunsets and lovely paths for walking hand-in-hand. Great hiking, reduced rate golf, tennis, antiquing and summer theater nearby. *The Highlands Inn*, PO Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace and Judi, Inkeepers. (16.7)

ORGANIZATIONS

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free, bulletin \$1. NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St, SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 482-7858 for info. (15.32)

PUBLICATIONS

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out, NCBLG, P.O. Box 2490, Washington, DC 20013. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

A journal of woman-to-woman s/m. Fantasy, analysis, erotic art and much more. Sub: \$13/four issues. Single issues \$4. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

PUBLICATIONS

WOMAN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (16.--)

GUARDIAN:Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer-4 issues FREE. Write Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY, 10011. (ex)

off our backs

Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample-\$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington. DC 20009. (ex)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE. Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*

BLACK GAY MALE PRISONERS!

A very wonderful book of writing and visual art (non-pornographic) is being offered to you FREE (limited supply!) by the Other Countries Collective of Black gay men. Write now to: Prison Book Collective, 92 Green St, Jamaica Plain MA 02130.



HEY THERE POETS & ARTISTS!!

(I include those of you too modest or unconfident to call yourselves 'artist' or 'poet'! OK, how about scribblers and doodlers?) GCN can always use a fresh supply of your drawings, poems, and whatever else gets out your feeling. We do a big poetry spread once a year and we ALWAYS need drawings (black & white, about as wide as one of these columns). You can think of them as your gift to us in return for our gift to you of this paper. Don't worry if they're not 'professional'. We're looking for inspiration, not technique.



Steve Cender

Bi-male seeks correspondence with Transvestites and bi-women. Have many interests. Seek long and lasting friendships. Please write Edward ROZANSKI, M2397, PO Box 99901, Pittsburgh, PA 15233.

British born male (30) seeks other penpals for friendship. I enjoy writing, reading, camping, swimming, dining out, and quiet times with friends. I dislike head games and insecure people. Age not important, but honest friendship is. Gary LLOYD, 114425, Box 100, Somers CT 06071.



34 yr old, gay man interested in remodeling Victorians, woodworking, hiking, reading, keeping myself in good shape, classical piano music and writing letters. Would anyone out there like to write to a semi-articulate and lonely prisoner? Philip GILLESPIE, 67480, Unit 29—K, Parchman MS 38738.

I would like to write to someone inside or out. I enjoy reading, horses, and young people. Charles FINKEN, 65912, Box B-629, Florence AZ 85232.

They TRANSFERRED me (no smile). Please rerun my recent penpal ad with the new address: Since I wrote last time OK City had their first GAY pride march openly and the numbers were strong. So I'd like to try again for a penpal, hopefully in or near OK. I'm from Houston, non-smoker, no drugs, vegetarian (except seafood). I like music and am very open-minded. Al WALL, 91424, Box 260, Lexington OK 73051.



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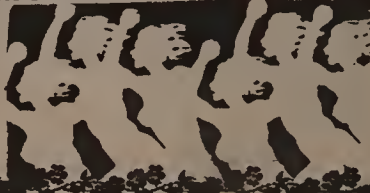
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236-1848



Hello, I'm enjoyed the sample paper you sent me. Please send more. I'm 19, a Scorpio, and looking for someone to be friends with. Your photo gets mine. Color and age means nothing. Patricia MORIN, 627913—101, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Female, age 22, pretty and love to write letters. I'm very lonely as I am very quiet. I like wild flowers, long walks in the woods, and a special friend. Looking for a lady with feeling. Lisa NELSON, 152079 (340), PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.



Friends of MICHELL ZIEGAST: to all my new found penpal friends that have been notified that you can't write me, not to worry. I have your names and address and I will be getting out soon. I also run a small business and a communications HOTLINE for prisoners when at home, pointing people in the right direction for homes, jobs, penpals and more. Yes, I'm a busy person, but not too busy to share my life with someone that has decided not to let the system eat them up. Why is it that when one person or prisoner speaks out about something, it's like hearing a mouse in the wind. Why don't most of us exercise our rights and are afraid if they ask questions we will be punished for trying to set a wrong right. The sin is sitting back and letting others violate your civil rights. Sincerely, Michelle ZIEGAST, P-9106, RD 10 Box 10, Greensburg PA 15601.

Gay male, 32, looking for someone to write. Like swimming, cooking, camping, roller skating, music and making friends. All replies answered. Roger WOODS, 110547, Rt 2 Box 111, Bland VA 24315.

7 inches of hot throbbing blood filled flesh, balls just full of hot thick creamy yummy cummy, bubble butt, hot lips and finger tips, waiting for you to write. (Can't write prisoners.) Send stamp-EMBOSSD envelope for fast reply. TV-TS-GM especially! Tom BLANKENSHIP, 195-152, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

JOEY ROBBINS! Where are you?? Please write Jude (CN 861, 6-right).

I've been doing time since I was 13 yrs old and soon I will be getting out (I hope). I'm tired of all these so-called 'men' in here who all they want to do is play games on homosexuals. They think homosexuals have no feelings at all and can be used like rag dolls. Sometimes I feel like I'm going crazy in here. They call me 'Wiz Kid' and 'Wizzy'. Richard BACA, 387582, Ellis 2, Huntsville TX 77340.

I'm hoping to hear from anyone who truly knows how to appreciate the right woman. I enjoy being held, wearing sexy ladies clothes and always looking good for my man. Age and looks not important. Todd WILLIS, 155497, FCC 4-A-4, 1012 W. Columbia, Farmington MO 63640.

I'm writing in behalf of looking for a gay to correspond with or a drag Queen. Your help will be appreciated. John CROSS, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887.

My hobby is CARS. Is there somebody out there who likes to collect (and take!) PICTURES of CARS?? 27 yr old Greek Orthodox in isolation for trying to Escape would like to meet intelligent gay men or women for penpals. Note that I am financially stable, just need someone real to write. Steven PAPPAS, 87A 9284, B-24-31, Attica NY 14011.

Extremely lonely prisoner would like a friend. I like music, concerts, nature, and shopping. Please write, guys. Rick COOPER, Box 629-53438, Florence AZ 85232.

Very longly male would enjoy writing gay men and women outside the walls. Hobbies are fishing, dancing, partying and country music and old rock n roll. Robin PHILLIPS, 343236, Rt 1 Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

Handsome Latin looking for intelligent TVs or TSs who could show me how it is on the wild side of life. Make it hot and juicy! Rolando GONZALEZ, 88A 3059, Box 500, Elmira NY 14902.



Calendar

5 Monday □ Calling all wig enthusiasts! The third annual Wigstock takes place in Manhattan between Ave. A and Ave. B at St. Mark's Place. Begins at noon. Featuring Ethyl Eichelberger, John Sex, Dean and the Weenies. Don't miss the pre-Wigstock party at the Pyramid Club on Sept. 4.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged.

20 Saturday

Boston □ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** presents a workshop every Saturday to collect the experiences and stories of those connected in any way with the AIDS crisis. The goal is to create a theater music piece based on the workshop material. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Boston □ **Community Feud**, to benefit the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Dorchester □ Fundraiser/birthday party for **Nelson Merced**, who is running for state representative from the new 5th Suffolk district. 34 Tonawanda St., Fields Corner. 7:30pm. \$. Info: 265-5719.

Saco, ME □ **GAYLA X**, the 10th Anniversary Gay Men's Conference. All gay men welcome to gather and enjoy, play, share, grow, and celebrate gayness. Ferry Beach, 8/20-27. Info: David Smith 602/978-3431 (Arizona), or Ferry Beach Park Ass'n. 207/282-4489 (Maine).

Cambridge □ **Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society** monthly meeting. 1pm. Info: The Gaylaxians, PO Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

Provincetown □ **Kate Clinton** performs daily through 8/31. Post Office Cafe, 303 Commercial St. 5pm. Info: 508/487-3892.

Boston □ Jean Genet's "**The Maids**," with "The Butler," a new play by Kenneth MacDonald. Performed by The Winter Company. Wed.-Sat., through 8/27. New Ehrlich Theatre, 539 Tremont St. 8pm. \$10 (exc. Wed., \$10 for 2). Info: 523-2966.

Somerville □ **Photo exhibit** of Peace and Social Justice by Ellen Shub. Through 8/29/88. Somerville Public Library auditorium, Highland Ave. Mon.-Thu., 9am-9pm; Fri. 9am-6pm. Info: 623-5000.

Provincetown □ Singer/songwriter **Erica Wheeler** live every Thu., Fri., Sat. evening at Different Ducks. 5-7pm. Info: 508/487-9648.

Boston □ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. Meets Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the South End. Info: 574-9433.

Provincetown □ **Fred Small and Patty Larkin** in concert in "A Night With the Folks." The Meeting House Benefit Series. Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial St. 8pm. \$10.

Boston □ **Gay Boston**, a weekly cable program with Candace Van Auken, this week features former members of the clergy. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

21 Sunday

Boston □ Metro Healing presents **ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Sunday. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Boston □ Benefit for the **Dan Holmes Legal Defense Fund**. 73 Hemenway St. 6:30pm. Info: 338-7037.

Nantasket □ Brookline/Brighton/Allston **Lesbian potluck**, Nantasket outing. Info: 232-7477.

Lowell □ Gay in the Merrimack Valley **monthly potluck**. Bring a dish to share. First Grace Fellowship Hall, 79 Florence Ave. 6pm. Info: David 508/452-4686.

Boston □ **Bingo**, to benefit Gay Fathers of Greater Boston. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Cambridge □ **Newoman Potluck Supper**. All new (and not so new) women welcome (and your children). Learn more about the Women's Center, meet other women. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30pm. (Movie at 8pm.) Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Ogunquit, ME □ **Gays and Lesbians of Watertown (GLOW)** annual Ogunquit trip. All are welcome. Info: Rich 926-5371, Chelle 489-2519.

Jamaica Plain □ **Amethyst Women** picnic and softball. For lesbians recovering from alcoholism and their women friends. Alcohol-free beverages provided. Pine Bank off the Jamaicaway. Noon-5pm.

Provincetown □ **June and Jean Millington** in concert. The Meeting House Benefit Series. Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial St. 8pm. \$10.

Boston □ **Boston's Other Voice** hosts representatives from the Broadway show, "Cats," and from Hospice West. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

22 Monday

Boston □ **Women's Rugby Club** summer practice every Monday and Wednesday, 6-8pm. No experience necessary. Info: Mel 536-4943, message 932-5401.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "Body Image and Self Esteem." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston □ "**Cats Who Care**," comedy, dance, and musical selections performed by members of the touring company of "Cats," to benefit The Hospice at Mission Hill and the Boston Center for Lesbians and Gay Men. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. \$27.50. Info: 536-0972.

23 Tuesday

Cambridge □ **BICEP** (Bisexual Committee Engaged in Politics) meets at Boylston Hall, Room 2B, Harvard U. 7:15 pm. Info: 247-6683.

Roxbury □ Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health presents a performance of "**AIDS: It's No Joke**," aimed at inner-city adolescents. Whittier St. Housing Project. 3pm. Info: 727-0368, 727-0049.

24 Wednesday

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Partners of Incest Survivors**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8:15-9:15pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

25 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston □ **The Newlywed Game for Women**, benefactor to be announced. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Boston □ Demonstrate against the **Dukakis foster care policy** at the Duke's \$10K/plate fundraiser. Meet at the corner of Boylston and Tremont to march to the Wang Center, Tremont St. Info: 661-7737.

26 Friday

Boston □ **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston □ **The Match Game**, to benefit Fenway Community Health Center. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Boston □ **Ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Friday. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Boston □ **Sara Laughs** performs at Somewhere Else, Franklin St. 8 and 10pm. Info: 423-7730.

Worcester □ **AIDS Project** — Worcester **support group** meets every Friday night for HIV positive, PWA's, PWARC's, lovers, friends, and the worried well. Open to all lesbians and gay men regardless of HIV status. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Info: Dana, 508/755-3773.

27 Saturday

Boston □ **The Price is Right**, to benefit Gay and Lesbian Health. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Salem □ North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance annual **Harbor Cruise** aboard the New England Star. Bring appetizers to share. Meet at 6:30pm at Barnegat Transportation, Congress St. Marina at Pickering Wharf. Cruise 7-11pm. \$10 members; \$12 non-members. Send check to N5GLA, PO Box 806, Marblehead, MA 01945 by 8/24. Info: 508/745-3848.

Spencer □ Join **Am Tikva** for a lake outing. Dairy/vegie cookout and evening Havdalah. 2pm. Info: Jen or Michael 965-2423.

Boston □ Men of All Colors Together-Boston **annual bus trip**. This year to Southeast Mass. for romps through parks, dinner at Duval St. Station, and "A Chorus Line" at the Falmouth Playhouse. Bus leaves from Columbus Ave. and W. Newton St. in the South End at 10am. \$40 covers entire day for members, \$45 for non-members. Info: Stephen (401) 351-3638.

28 Sunday

Boston □ **Rock Against Sexism** August disc party/T-dance. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. 6-10pm. \$1 before 7pm, \$2 after.

Boston □ **Bingo**, to benefit the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Boston □ **Boston's Other Voice** special guest Mitch Finnegan will speak about Gay and Lesbian Health, the new community mental health service. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

Dorchester □ **Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbian and Gay Men**. General meeting (Asian only) at 2:00pm. Potluck bar-be-que at 5:00pm (all welcome). 53 Bakerfield St. Info: 622-6000

31 Wednesday

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston □ **NAMES Project** general meeting, every other Wednesday, to coordinate plans to bring the AIDS Quilt to Washington, DC in October. Piemonte Rm., 5th floor, City Hall, Congress St. entrance. 7pm. Info: Tim 262-4831.

September 1 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston □ **Match Game**, to benefit The Hospice on Mission Hill, a program of Hospice West. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

Cambridge □ Metropolitan Community Church sponsors **HIV antibody positive support group**. 720 Massachusetts Ave., Central Sq. 7:30pm. Info: 523-7664.

Boston □ **Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee** meets first Thursday of every month. New members welcome. Rm. 801, City Hall. 7pm. Info: 232-1716.

Cambridge □ Discussion group for non-offending male sexual abuse victims meets first Thursday of every month. Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 859 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. Free. Info: 498-9881.

2 Friday

Boston □ **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

Boston □ **Community Feud**, to benefit the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

3 Saturday

Boston □ **Jeopardy**, to benefit The Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau. Part of Club Cabaret's "Summer Games, a Month of Benefits." MoonShine, 209 Columbus Ave. 8-10pm. \$4. Info: 536-0972.

4 Sunday

Dorchester □ **Dorchester GALA potluck**. Info: Dennis 436-0148, Barbara 282-2962.

National Calendar 5 Monday

New York City □ **Wigstock**, a celebration of wigs, begins at noon between Ave. A and Ave. B at St. Mark's Place. Happy Phace and Lady Bunny join celebrities Ethyl Eichelberger and John Sex for the festivities. A pre-Wigstock party takes place the night before at the Pyramid Club, 101 Ave. A between 6th and 7th.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
TODD HOLLISTER



Regina Gillis

Big Top Pee-Wee. Directed by Randall Kleiser. Written by Paul Reubens and George McGrath. Starring Pee-Wee Herman

By Elizabeth Pincus

Some publicists and pundits are touting the smooch between Pee-Wee Herman and Valeria Galina in *Big Top Pee-Wee* as the longest lip-lock in screen history. That's not quite accurate. The over three-minute long sequence was cut to a breathless 45 seconds, leaving intact the record held by Jane Wyman and Regis Toomey for a three-minute, five-second kiss in *You're in the Army Now* (1941).

Still, Pee-Wee's pucker seems inordinately long, an almost macabre scene accompanied by trilling music and set beside a bubbling brook all awash with hyper-vibrant colors. The kiss begins in close-up, then the camera fades back to reveal the oh-so-romantic "nature" setting. And sure enough, the scene is followed by standard movie ploys used to imply hetero consummation: a train going into a tunnel, fireworks, crashing waves. Pee-Wee! Mon dieu! Is it true what the nasty critics say? Are you trying to appease the homophobes? Are you succumbing to commercial pressure to be a (gulp) stud?

I say no way. *Big Top Pee-Wee* is a wildly perverse movie, filled with gender jokes, dry wit and downright weird interactions — sexual and otherwise. Undoubtedly Pee-Wee is changing, but I suspect creator Paul Reubens (Pee-Wee Herman in real life) is veering his alter ego in the direction of cynicism, not towards the straight-and-narrow. When Pee-Wee Herman throws over his honey-dipped hometown sweetie for a comely Italian trapeze artist, he employs every cliché in the book, thereby satirizing the whole notion of heterosexual supremacy. Reubens knows how absurd it appears for his fey, tight-suited hero to suddenly be romancing real live humans. In fact, he slyly depicts Pee-Wee's most flirtatious friendship as the one with a talking pig named Vance.

Pee-Wee's encounters with women in *Big Top Pee-Wee* seem deliberately odd and/or cloying. The scene in which Pee-Wee leaps on top of his paramour is a repulsive caricature of a come-on, and his hair fetish

Pee-Wee's still perverse

Wild weirdness reveals a satiric side to the gawky guy



Pee Wee Herman or Elizabeth Pincus?

is squirmingly bizarre. When Pee-Wee first meets the circus star Gina Piccolopupula, they exchange an endearing banter of blushing school-kid jokes. But their romance quickly becomes absurd when the specter of sexuality is introduced. Clearly, Reubens is complicit in the farce of Pee-Wee's big adventure in straight dating. Why else would he position Pee-Wee in a circus tent among a line-up of "freaks," and lovingly describe Pee-Wee as the freakiest of

all?

Not that *Big Top Pee-Wee* is a seamless satire. Much of the movie is just plain wacko, from the hostile scene at the general store ("When Pee-Wee wants a pickle, Pee-Wee gets a pickle!"), to the hot dog tree, to the tiny character Midge. And unlike other Pee-Wee Herman vehicles, which are laugh riots of dadaist dimension, *Big Top Pee-Wee* is at times pathetically un-funny — one stale flop of a gag after another. Still, the

movie gets under your skin and, in retrospect, is more depraved than at first view.

It's also far sadder than the surface glibness would suggest. The basic plot — which involves an outcast Pee-Wee seeking salvation with a traveling circus of outcasts — is itself rife with despondency. Circuses and carnivals often suggest an atmosphere of creepiness or despair in films, from the frightening climax in Alfred Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train* to the bittersweet longing of the circus performers in Wim Wender's new release, *Wings of Desire*. The big top motif in *Big Top Pee-Wee* is no exception. When an uncharacteristically bland Kris Kristofferson, playing the road show ringleader Mace Montana, confides in Pee-Wee about the demise of the circus, the demise of Pee-Wee himself is frighteningly foreshadowed.

Pee-Wee's scrappy effort to rescue the circus is touching, though still beleaguered with a sad absurdity. It takes feeding the locals a snack of home-grown cocktail wienies to coerce them into appreciating the show. Never before has Pee-Wee been forced to be so conniving to gain affection. Only the smashing Gina Piccolopupula grants Pee-Wee unconditional love. "He makes me laugh," sighs Piccolopupula, echoing that other currently chic tongue-in-cheek heterosexual siren, Jessica Rabbit. Interestingly, *Big Top Pee-Wee* has all kinds of tie-ins to other film releases. Besides the similarities to *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* — another movie which can't decide if it's for kids or adults — Pee-Wee's new flick echoes the eros of *Wings of Desire*, the relationship shake-ups in Eric Rohmer's *Boyfriends and Girlfriends*, and even the sappy mysticism of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Despite a purportedly happy resolution, *Big Top Pee-Wee* leaves a lot of unanswered questions. Will Pee-Wee win a Nobel Prize for his hot dog tree? Will Gina Piccolopupula leave Pee-Wee for Midge? Where can we again see the dashing Piccolopupula brothers? And is Paul Reubens planning to retire Pee-Wee, or involve him in increasingly aberrant undertakings? As a latecomer to the Pee-Wee phenomenon (I finally tuned in out of curiosity after numerous strangers and friends told me I

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